A

DISCOURSE

UPON THE INSTITUTION OF

MEDICAL SCHOOLS,

IN AMERICA;

Delivered at a Public ANNIVERSARY COMMENCEMENT, held in the COLLEGE of PHILADELPHIA *May* 30 and 31, 1765.

WITH A

PREFACE

Containing, amongſt other things,

THE AUTHOR's

APOLOGY.

For attempting to introduce the regular mode of practiſing PHYSIC in PHILADELPHIA:

BY JOHN MORGAN M.D.

Fellow of the Royal Society at LONDON; Correſpondent of the Royal Academy of Surgery at PARIS; Member of the Arcadian *Belles Lettres* Society at ROME; Licentiate of the Royal Colleges of Phyſicians in LONDON and in EDINBURGH; and Profeſſor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine in the College of PHILADELPHIA.

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MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

TO

SAMUEL POWEL, ESQUIRE,

Of PHILADELPHIA.

SIR,

THE following diſcourſe was written for the moſt part at Paris, and ſerved as an agreeable relaxation from the ſeverer ſtudies in which I was, at that time, engaged. Our travelling together gave me an opportunity of ſubmitting the performance to your critical eye, and it affords me a ſingular ſatisfaction to acknowlege, that, in ſeveral particulars, it has been greatly amended by your candid and judicious remarks.

UPON

UPON ſuch an occaſion as this, I ſhould deem myſelf ungrateful indeed, was I to withold the little tribute I have in my power to pay to that genuine worth and diſintereſted friendſhip, which I have experienced in you.

SURE I am that a perſon of your amiable diſpoſition, whoſe heart glows with the utmoſt warmth of ſocial affection, whoſe mind is enriched with the treaſures of ancient and modern learning, and whoſe taſte has been improved and refined, by an acquaintance and converſation with men of the firſt rank in life and of the greateſt abilities in the learned world, muſt be eminently uſeful to mankind, and particularly adorn and bleſs the land wherein providence calls him to reſide. With great reaſon, therefore, may we hope to ſee you become a diſtinguiſhed ornament to ſociety. With great reaſon may the place of your nativity claim the advantages which ariſe from ſuch abilities, and

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from a genius that was formed and nurtured in her own boſom. Your country has much to expect in waiting the return of a ſon bleſſed with ſo many uſeful endowments; and I well know that, amongſt your many other virtues, the love of your country prevails too much in your breaſt to let her ſuſtain a diſappointment.

Opulence and generoſity ſeldom go hand in hand. The gifts of fortune are rarely accompanied with a ſpirit to employ them in deeds of charity and diſintereſted benevolence.

It is yours, Sir, to ſoar above the ſordid views of vulgar minds, and enjoy the ſublime pleaſures of a tender and ſympathizing humanity, which always carries its own reward, in the ſatisfaction that flows from the exerciſe of ſo precious a gift of divine bounty.

There are no connections in life more honourable than thoſe which we form with men of learning and virtue.

I cannot but congratulate myſelf, therefore, on the ſtrict intimacy with which you have ſo long indulged me, and, at the ſame time, be thankful to you for the advantages it has often procured me in foreign parts.

During an abſence of five years from my country and friends, whilſt I was engaged in ſuch purſuits as were indiſpenſably neceſſary to fit me for more extenſive uſefulneſs in my profeſſion, the almoſt uninterrupted enjoyment of your company, or correſpondence, contributed much to make ſuch a ſeparation more eaſy and ſupportable. It will always give me unſpeakable pleaſure to reflect upon the variety of ſcenes through which we have paſſed, and the entertainment and improvement we have met with, in viſiting the principal cities and ſeats of ſcience in Great-Britain, Holland, France and Italy; places celebrated for the birth or reſidence of men of the moſt illuſtrious genius in the world,

world, and diſtinguiſhed for the cultivation of manners, polite arts and literature.

THESE are the ſeveral conſiderations that have induced me to preſent you with this performance. Happy ſhould I have thought myſelf, if a little more leiſure had enabled me to render it ſomewhat more worthy your notice. Such as it is, however, I requeſt you to accept it as a ſmall teſtimony of my perſonal regard and affection for you. Whatever may be the merit or ſucceſs of the work itſelf, I ſhall always rejoice that it has given me an opportunity of telling the world, how much I reſpect your character, and what an high value I place upon your friendſhip.

I am,

Dear Sir,

Your moſt affectionate friend

and obliged humble ſervant,

JOHN MORGAN.

PREFACE.

THE delay in publiſhing my addreſs on the inſtitution of Medical ſchools aroſe from the indiſpenſable calls of buſineſs. It has given me an opportunity, however, of hearing the opinion of many people upon the addreſs; but more particularly upon what relates to my propoſed method of practiſing phyſic.

My intention with regard to the latter, having been made known by general converſations only, I find has been often miſunderſtood. No wonder then, if, in conſequence thereof, it has been ſometimes greatly miſrepreſented.

This has determined me to commit to the preſs the plan of practice by which I deſign to regulate myſelf as much as poſſible; and to deliver my ſentiments very briefly on the expediency of a regular and diſtinct practice in the ſeveral branches of Medicine. The public will then be able to judge more clearly

clearly of the propriety of thoſe meaſures, which, from a full perſuaſion of their great utility, I venture to recommend.

Firſt, I purpoſe to confine myſelf, in practice, to thoſe caſes which belong moſt immediately to the office of a Phyſician, that I may preſcribe for and attend ſuch caſes to greater advantage. I ſhall therefore avoid, all I can, interfering in the proper buſineſs of ſurgery viz. manual operation.

I DO not mean however to refuſe to innoculate for the ſmall-pox, where my patients or their friends object to employ another hand to make the inciſion. This may frequently happen, although there is no more difficulty or art required in it, than in cutting an iſſue and inſerting a pea, or than in cupping and bleeding.

Secondly, I propoſe, in ſuch caſes as ſhall be required, to attend in conſultation with other Phyſicians, on the ſame terms as thoſe of character enter into conſultation with one another.

Thirdly, I ſhall give my opinion in writing on the complaints of patients at a diſtance from Philadelphia, whenever the hiſtory of the caſe is properly drawn up and tranſmitted to me for advice.

Fourthly,

Fourthly, In ſuch caſes of ſurgery as require conſultation, or the uſe of medicines, I am willing to attend, to preſcribe, conſult, or adviſe; but not to perform any operation myſelf, or dreſs any wound.

IN REGARD TO THE APOTHECARY AND SURGEON.

It may be proper here to acquaint the public, that, for the better carrying of this plan into execution, Mr. *David Leighton*, a gentleman of abilities and integrity, educated in Great-Britain both in pharmacy and ſurgery, has accompanied me hither. To him I ſend to make up my preſcriptions. But patients are allowed to chooſe any other apothecary to put up their medicines, or what ſurgeon they pleaſe for the operative part. What I expect from them is a proper compenſation for my advice and attendance as a phyſician. The medicines and operations are to be conſidered as a diſtinct and ſeparate charge. Mr. *Leighton* has imported a large aſſortment of medicines, in which no expence has been ſpared to have every thing of the beſt in its kind. They have been prepared with particular care by Meſſrs *Silvanus* and *Timothy Bevan*, Druggiſts in London, whoſe known ſkill and reputation in that buſineſs are too well eſtabliſhed, both in Great-Britain and America, to need further recommendation.

Mr. LEIGHTON will oblige himſelf to put up ſuch preſcriptions as are ordered, in the beſt manner, and with the utmoſt fidelity and care, as well as at the moſt moderate rate.

AS TO FEES.

I always mean that theſe ſhall be moderate, adapted to the circumſtances of this place, of the patient and the attendance he may require.

As a rule of conduct to ſuch as are quite unacquainted with the regular practice of phyſic, let them inform themſelves what is the united expence for Medicines and attendance, as charged by the practitioners of eminence in this place. In ſuch caſes as can be exactly aſcertained, I ſhall require no more from them, than they would be obliged to pay to others, as in the caſe of innoculation and attendance in the ſmall pox; allowance being made for the Medicines. The ſame rule, as far as it can be obſerved in fevers and other diſorders, might be applyed.

PRACTITIONERS in many caſes make an advanced charge on their Medicines, ſo as to include for attendance. This is done to make up for the patients deficiency in fees, than which, when it is willful and not the effect of ignorance in the patient, nothing can be more equitable, or more expedient, except

cept charging for attendance under its proper name. For Practitioners muſt be paid for their time and attendance, as well as for their Medicines, under whatever name they make the charge. Indeed the moſt extenſive practice otherwiſe would be inſufficient to ſupport a family in a becoming manner, as the greateſt part of their time is employed in viſiting the ſick. The paying of a phyſician for attendance and the apothecary for his Medicines apart is certainly the moſt eligible mode of practice, both to patient and practitioner. The apothecary then, who is not obliged to ſpend his time in viſiting patients, can afford to make up medicines at a reaſonable price; and it is as deſirable, as juſt in itſelf, that patients ſhould allow fees for attendance, whatever it may be thought to deſerve. They ought to know what it is they really pay for Medicines, and what for phyſical advice and attendance.

Nobody, I believe, will deny that the practice of rating Medicines, at ſuch a price as to include the charge for Medicines and attendance, is liable to groſs impoſitions on the part of ignorant medicaſters, too many of whom ſwarm in every city. Patients who are kept in ignorance of what price Medicines are, conſidered ſeparately, and what is the value of phyſical ſkill and attendance, naturally think the original coſt of Medicines, which are comparatively cheap, to be very dear, and undervalue the ſkill of a phyſician,

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his toil of ſtudy and his expence of time and money in his education, which have often amounted to very large ſums and to many years ſpent abroad in queſt of knowledge, as if they were of no conſideration.

THE levelling of all kind of practicioners ſo much with illiterate pretenders, who have art enough to gain employ, however ill qualified in that of healing diſeaſes, has a tendency to deter perſons, otherwiſe of juſt and liberal ſentiments, from putting themſelves to a further expence to gain knowledge, than what is ſufficient to make money. This is to make a vile trade of phyſic, inſtead of a noble profeſſion, which as it certainly is, ſo it ought to be eſteemed.

I HAVE been told more than once, upon reaſoning on the ſubject, that people here are uſed to this method and dont love to change old cuſtoms. What is it more than to ſay,

" Si populus vult decipi, decipiatur

IF people chooſe to be deceived, even let us keep them in their deception." ?

INSTEAD of making a charge of fees, I willingly leave to the patients themſelves to give what

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they pleaſe, upon my diſmiſſion from further attendance, or as ſoon after their recovery as ſhall be thought convenient, without ſpecifying any demand, unleſs where patients particularly require it. This I look for to prevent the neceſſity of making a book charge of fees, which is never done in any liberal profeſſion.

By thus leaving the fee in a great meaſure, or wholly, to the free will and circumſtances of the patient, a phyſician may be employed by the middling claſs of people as well as the rich.

Many who have no adequate notion of the true value of attendance, or what rule is obſerved by others, may wiſh rather to be directed what fee to pay for attendance, being deſirous on one hand to avoid the appearance of being deficient in generoſity, and on the other hand willing to recompence the phyſician for his care, without unneceſſary prodigality. Such perſons, upon intimation of their deſires, it is to be hoped, will always find themſelves fully ſatisfied in this particular.

As to attending poor patients gratis, and giving them my beſt advice; I ſhall chearfully take my ſhare of that kind of practice with my brethern of the faculty. For I ſhall always eſteem it a favourable cir-

cumſtance,

ſtance, that puts it in my power to adminiſter relief to perſons, whoſe indigence forbids them to expect it upon any other terms.

These articles, I preſume, will effectually remove the objection which has been moſt ſtrongly urged, viz. that my method of practice would only ſuit the wealthy; and will prove that the expence to the patient is not greater, on the plan I have adopted, than in the common method of practice.

It is true that, upon my firſt arrival, I expreſſed my deſire of being paid for a certain number of viſits, at a piſtole the firſt viſit, as a retaining fee, and a dollar for every viſit afterwards.----It was not my intention to require more than one fee per day, although I might wait on the patient oftner, nor yet every day that I viſited once, where a diſeaſe of a lingering nature, or requiring particular care, would render my attendance expenſive. A retaining fee I expected to receive from the rich, not from the poor; and had firmly reſolved in no caſe to receive more fees, than ſufficient to pay me for the value of my time and trouble of attendance. But for want of ſuitable opportunities of rendering this better known, I daily found that my good intention was in ſome meaſure fruſtrated.

This, and the advice of ſome judicious friends to endeavour to prevent the ill effects of prejudice, made me reſolve to attempt ſuch an alteration as might be better ſuited, at this time, to the cuſtoms and circumſtances of the people.

The preceeding plan I have ever ſince conſtantly followed, to my entire ſatisfaction, and I hope to that of my patients. Truth requires of me to acknowledge to the public, that I have always found, as far as my practice has hitherto given me an opportunity of judging, that the inſinuation, which has been made to deter me from this mode of practice, viz. *that people are too narrow minded here, and ſhow no generoſity to a phyſician, only employing a doctor becauſe he is cheap or lives near to them*, is utterly groundleſs. In moſt inſtances I have found their generoſity has much exceeded my expectations.

One article more I have to mention under this head. It may frequently happen, in viſiting my friends and acquaintance who employ me in their families, that themſelves, their children or ſervants, may have ſlight complaints, for which they would be glad to have advice, but do not think them of importance enough to call in a phyſician, who may expect fees for little ailments. Such perſons may always command my advice in theſe matters without a fee.

THE NECESSITY OF REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF PHYSIC.

It will be readily acknowledged by every one that allows himſelf to reflect upon it, that ſome regulation in regard to a Phyſicians attendance upon the ſick is now become highly requiſite. Formerly, when the city did not occupy much above half the extent, practice was much more manageable than it is at preſent. Living was then cheap. Within my own memory, every article of expence was leſs by almoſt one half. So that what ſuited the circumſtances of the place and people then does not ſuit them now. Yet we may believe the knowledge of Phyſic has been cultivated all along with conſiderable application. A medical education is at leaſt become much more expenſive, and a man has little chance, if he keeps free from empiriciſm, to get a tolerable living by phyſic now, unleſs he has ſpent ſome years in an expenſive education in Europe. Is it not then more equitable to be paid for attendance, than to live by advancing the price of medicines?

I am not urging theſe as arguments for a more expenſive practice, but for an improvement of it, by ſeparating phyſic from ſurgery and pharmacy, which

I think incompatible with them, at leaſt according to the plan of education I have followed, by the advice of ſome of the moſt eminent and ſkillful judges of medical ſcience of any in Great Britain.

What reaſonable objection can be then offered againſt an improvement in the preſent method of the practice of phyſic, which, to a man in great buſineſs, is by every one allowed to be the moſt ſlaviſh profeſſion known in this part of the world.

Every mechanic has a certain portion of time allotted to him for a relaxation from buſineſs, and for the enjoyment of ſocial happineſs. Phyſicians have next to none, but they are obliged to be at the call of the ſick, every hour in the night as well as of the day. Were they born ſlaves to the public and not children? or, for ſuch a voluntary ſurrender of their liberty and eaſe as is neceſſary to practiſe conſcientiouſly, are they to have no compenſation? Is it thought an unreaſonable demand to be paid for a toilſome, but neceſſary attendance, amidſt objects of the moſt moving diſtreſs, which deprives them much of the company of their own family and of a number of gratifications, which every other profeſſion allows of without detriment? Where is the encouragement for a man to baniſh himſelf from all the endearing tyes of friends and relations, to ſpend the prime of

life, and often the bulk of his fortune, to adminiſter more ſkillful aid to the calamities of his diſtreſſed fellow mortals, if he is to be conſidered as entitled only to the ſame gratuity with thoſe who employ all their time at home, in getting money, inſtead of ſpending it for the public good? or is he to be allowed no more, than if, in acquiring this knowledge, he had been ſupported at a public expence?---- let unbiaſſed reaſon and juſtice determine.

I am ſorry that the objections, which have been made to my propoſed method of practice, have laid me under the diſagreeable neceſſity of mentioning the kind of education I have had to qualify me for my profeſſion, and to afford me a reaſonable expectation of a living from my advice and attendance.

It is now more than fifteen years ſince I began the ſtudy of medicine in this city, which I have proſecuted ever ſince without interruption. During the firſt ſix years I ſerved an apprenticeſhip with Dr. JOHN REDMAN, who then did, and ſtills continues to enjoy a moſt juſtly acquired reputation in this city for ſuperior knowledge and extenſive practice in phyſic. At the ſame time I had an opportunity of being acquainted with the practice of other eminent phyſicians in this place, particularly of all the phyſicians

ficians to the hoſpital, whoſe preſcriptions I put up there above the ſpace of one year. The term of my apprenticeſhip being expired, I devoted myſelf for four years to a military life, principally with a view to become more ſkillful in my profeſſion; being engaged, the whole of that time, in a very extenſive practice in the army, amongſt diſeaſes of every kind. The laſt five years I have ſpent in Europe, under the moſt celebrated maſters in every branch of Medicine, and ſpared no labour or expence to ſtore my mind with an extenſive acquaintance in every ſcience, that related any way to the duty of a phyſician; having in that time expended, in this purſuit, a ſum of money, of which the very intereſt would prove no contemptible income. With what ſucceſs this has been done others are to judge, and not myſelf.

Thus I have arrived at the middle age of life, in endeavouring to lay up treaſures of uſeful knowledge, before I commence a ſettled practice; and yet I have been told, that to expect to gain a ſupport here by my medical advice and attendance only, without becoming a ſurgeon and apothecary too in order to help out, is to forget that I was born an American. I am very happy that my country has always diſcovered too much of a laudable ambition to excell in every branch of polite literature, and has taken too much pleaſure in the reputation of her ſons, to fill

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me with apprehenſion that an education in phyſic will be accounted too expenſive, ſuch as I have thought neceſſary to qualify myſelf for practiſing my profeſſion with eaſe of mind to myſelf and with benefit to the community.

As far as I can learn, every body approves of my plan for inſtituting medical ſchools, and I have the honour of being appointed a public profeſſor for teaching phyſic in the college here. Can any man, the leaſt acquainted with the nature of that arduous taſk, once imagine it poſſible for me to acquit myſelf in that ſtation, in an honourable or uſeful manner, and yet be engaged in one continued round of practice in ſurgery and pharmacy, as well as phyſic?

To prepare for a courſe of lectures every year requires ſome leiſure, and a mind undiſturbed with too great a variety of purſuits. So that my uſefulneſs as a profeſſor makes it abſolutely neceſſary for me to follow that method of practice, which alone appears to be calculated to anſwer that end. *

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* Quid caret alternâ requie durabile non eſt,
Hæc reparat vires, feſſaque membra novat. OVID.

ON THE ADVANTAGES OF A SEPARATE AND REGULAR PRACTICE OF PHYSIC, SURGERY AND PHARMACY.

In the more laborious occupations of life, as in building a houſe or a ſhip, a great variety as well as a great number of artizans are employed, but all in different departments.

In the leſs laborious callings we obſerve the like prudent regulations, thus in making a pipe, a button or a pin, a variety of hands, no leſs commonly than five, ſix, or ſeven different artiſts unite their induſtry. By this means they finiſh more work in a limited time, and can afford to ſell it at a cheaper rate, than they could, if every individual was employed in all the ſeparate branches. But each having a particular province aſſigned to himſelf, while all conſpire in one uniform plan, they become more ſkillful and dextrous in their reſpective parts, and all more uſefully ſubſervient to one end. Are the good qualities of accuracy, diſpatch and cheapneſs, not to ſpeak of the greater perfection of the work, no recommendation to the manner of doing it?

Why ſhould the more difficult, but more ingenious and liberal arts, ſcorn to be taught wiſdom from their example? Is it eaſier to underſtand the intricate

intricate ſtructure of the animal frame, the work of God, than to learn the conſtruction of any machine, as a watch or clock, the work of human invention? Or are the ſprings and movements of the former, ſo divinely adjuſted, more eaſily managed and put to rights when in diſorder, than the wheels of the latter? or does the preſervation of this in a ſound ſtate require leſs ſtudy, knowledge, and conduct?

THE human body is certainly one of the moſt compound machines in nature. Medicine is one of the nobleſt and moſt difficult of arts, made up of a number of ſciences different from each other. The practice of phyſic requires deliberation, reaſoning, judgement, and experience. Surgery calls for different powers and qualifications rarely uniting in one man. Are theſe then all to be blended with the apothecary, the botaniſt, and chymiſt, which ought to be, and are each of them ſeparate and diſtinct in their very nature? Whilſt we labour amidſt ſuch a variety of purſuits, all improvement muſt be at a ſtand. Whereas, let each cultivate his reſpective branch apart, the phyſician, ſurgeon, apothecary &c. the knowledge of medicine will be then daily improved, and it may be practiſed with greater accuracy and ſkill as well as a leſs expence.

PREJUDICE may here aſk, how can a phyſician practiſe with advantage, if he does not equally purſue

ſue every branch of his profeſſion? or how ſhall he know that the Medicines are good, which he orders, if he does not prepare them himſelf?

Answer, It is not only expedient, but neceſſary that a phyſician ſhould have a general and extenſive knowledge of the whole art, and be acquainted with the principles of every branch of his profeſſion. Thus the general of an army ſhould be acquainted with every part of military ſcience, and underſtand the whole detail of military duty, from that of colonel down to a private centinel. But there is no need that he ſhould act as a pioneer and dig in a trench. Where a proper ſubordination is wanting, there is a perverſion of all practical knowledge. No more then is a phyſician obliged, from his office, to handle a knife with a ſurgeon; to cull herbs with the botaniſt; to diſtill ſimples with the chymiſt; or compound drugs with the apothecary. Can he be more ſure however that his Medicines are genuine, if he does not collect his own herbs and roots as a botaniſt, or diſtill with the chymiſt, than he can, if, omitting theſe, he ſhould ſtick to the plaiſter-pan and ſpatula, or the peſtle and mortar?

But practitioners in great buſineſs never do, or can do the buſineſs of an apothecary in this place, themſelves. They have apprentices for

the purpoſe. After viſiting the ſick, do not their apprentices make up their preſcriptions? I would aſk, is not an apothecary thoroughly acquainted with the art of compounding and making up Medicines as ſkillful in it as an apprentice? Is not a man educated in the profeſſion to be truſted in preference to one who is only learning that buſineſs? or has the maſter, who may be called from place to place to attend other caſes of ſurgery, or ſee other patients, always time to wait for medicines to be made up under his eye?

THESE queries are eaſy enough for every one to decide upon, without being brought up to the ſtudy of phyſic. Will he not therefore do a worthy action, whoever ſhall ſteadily apply himſelf to remove the difficulties which are in the way of regular practice? Will he not do real ſervice to his country and mankind, for the good effects of which poſterity may thank him? Who then would heſitate to rank himſelf amongſt the foremoſt claſs of thoſe who ſhall be concerned in a work of ſuch real benefit to the public?

HAVING thus fully explained the method I propoſe for practiſing phyſic in this place, I appeal to the impartial judgment of the public to decide upon the queſtion. Is it to be deemed an idle innovation, or is it not rather an improvement of practice in Philadelphia, to adopt a plan conformable to what is obſerved in great Britain and all poliſhed countries,

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as far as the circumſtances of this place admit? I profeſs myſelf open to conviction, and ſhall allow due weight to every reaſonable argument that may be oppoſed to my plan. When I am rationally convinced that I have been in an error, I ſhall readily acknowledge and retract my ſentiments, which I hope, till then, I may be allowed to continue, without being charged with an innovating ſpirit.

What remains yet to be done is to endeavour to elucidate a few paſſages, which have been thought exceptionable in the diſcourſe by particular perſons.

In ſome paragraphs, the opinions and practice of the faculty of phyſic in this place have been thought to have been too indiſcriminately condemned.

Far be it from me to merit this charge, or to have entertained ſentiments derogatory from a ſet of gentlemen, many of whom I rank amongſt my principle friends in the city, and highly eſteem for their integrity and abilities in their profeſſion, to which they do great honour. To have made a nominal diſtinction was never my deſign. It cannot therefore in juſtice be imputed to me as a fault to have avoided, all I could, every thing which had the leaſt appearance of particularity, and to have endeavoured to ſuggeſt an improvement of practice, without aiming at practitioners.

I DOUBT not that every practitioner here of education, experience and integrity, has purſued the plan which, in his opinion, was beſt ſuited to the place and people. But as circumſtances alter, ſo does the propriety of particular eſtabliſhed cuſtoms, which gradually give way to others better ſuited to thoſe changes which happen in a courſe of years. May I not hope to meet with the ſame candour that I ſhow to others, and be admitted to act from the ſame honeſt principles, in recommending what I think an improvement of practice, that I allow thoſe who have purſued a plan different from mine?

WHEREVER there is the leaſt appearance of being particular, or wherever I have ſpoken expreſsly of the practitioners of this town, it has been in the moſt becoming manner and without the leaſt cenſure, well knowing how much I myſelf need the indulgence of others,

" Mecum habito et novi
quam ſit mihi curta ſuppellex."

IN confirmation hereof, I ſhall adduce a few inſtances to which the reader may refer. Thus I have ſaid, p. 18. " and here we may congratulate ourſelves, that in this, and ſome of the large neighbouring towns, we have a number of ſkillful phyſicians

and

and expert ſurgeons, qualified by genius, education and experience, to take charge of the health of their fellow creatures." And p 30. "The city of Philadelphia, adorned with a ſet of eminent practitioners, draws to it a great number of pupils, from the neighbouring parts, to learn the arts of phyſic and ſurgery." Indeed the only part in which I have been particular, and there it was unavoidable, is in ſpeaking of the phyſicians of the hoſpital, which I have done in terms of the higheſt reſpect. p. 31.

It is true, I have endeavoured, as well as I was able, to deſcribe the miſchievous effects that enſue from ignorance and preſumption, when young men enter upon the practice of Medicine before they are duly inſtructed in the important duties of the profeſſion. See p. 23. 24.

I have likewiſe urged the neceſſity of joining ſtudy with practice, and availing ourſelves of the medical diſcoveries and improvements made by others. On the authority of a very learned ſociety, I have alſo diſapproved of the conduct of thoſe, who, from prejudice affecting a ſimplicity, (which might often miſlead them) diſdain thoſe perſons who divide their time between ſtudy and practice. I have likewiſe added, on the ſame authority, that novices enlightened by the diſcoveries, which theſe practitioners ſhut

their

their eyes againſt, would in their turn with reaſon deſpiſe them, when grown old in their errors," ſee p. 42 and 47.

But I have no where intentionally aimed the ſhaft of cenſure at any one, or attempted the character of a particular man; much leſs have I dared to attack indiſcriminately a whole body of men. As far as I have engaged in painting the errors or faults of any, I have endeavoured to repreſent general actions of men, ſuch as they are, and not the picture of individuals. Yet, as *Le Sage* has juſtly remarked, there are ſome perſons who cannot read, and I ſay there are others who cannot hear, without making an application of thoſe vicious or ridiculous characters which they learn from an author. With him I declare to all who have ſuch a malicious propenſity, that they are in the wrong to apply the portraits which they may find here exhibited; nor let any reader take for his own what may equally belong to another, otherwiſe he will fooliſhly expoſe himſelf, as Phædrus ſays,

"Stulté nudabit animi conſcientiam."

The notice I have here given is, I hope, ſufficient therefore to exculpate me from the groundleſs charge of having unjuſtly reflected upon, or cenſured the conduct of others,

Some

Some, it is ſaid, have thought, that I have deſcribed the difficulties of attaining to the knowledge of phyſic in too ſtrong terms, and have enumerated ſo many qualifications as requiſite to acquire any conſiderable knowledge of the medical art, that I rather deter ſtudents, than encourage them in attempting to compleat their ſtudies and to become ſkillful in their profeſſion.

To theſe I reply, that I have been far from exaggerating matters, and have left much unſaid, on purpoſe to avoid diſcouraging their eager purſuit. If we cannot arrive at abſolute perfection in ſcience, let us not abandon ourſelves to a criminal indolence, but ſtrive to approach that degree of knowledge which is attainable by induſtry, and we cannot fail of being eminently ſkillful in the healing art and highly uſeful to mankind.

Others, I am informed, as if they were afraid of engaging in too great an expence, have ſaid that I have inſiſted too much on the neceſſity of ſtudents attending lectures in every different branch of medicine. They ſeem to imagine if they hear lectures upon Anatomy only, the branch which I have firſt mentioned in my diſcourſe, that they can eaſily make themſelves maſters of all the other branches of medicine by reading. I bluſh for thoſe who thus

expoſe

expoſe either their ignorance or their avarice. Why are they not equally contented with ſuch a ſhare of knowledge in anatomy, as they can gain from books, ſince this ſcience can be better painted to the eye, than ſome of the other branches of medicine, which are altogether as neceſſary to be known by a phyſician? Are not anatomical plates and deſcriptions as intelligible to a ſtudent, as the philoſophical ſtudies of chymiſtry, phyſiology, and pathology are, from a mere courſe of reading? or is it of leſs conſequence to gain a ſyſtematic knowledge of the materia medica, or practice of medicine, than of anatomy, which is of no other uſe to a phyſician than as it contributes its ſhare towards explaining what diſeaſes are? The others furniſh him with the means and manner of performing the cure, and require, at leaſt, as much labour and explanation as anatomy itſelf demands.

The worthy and learned Doctor Lewis is of opinion, "that the medicinal hiſtory, or the knowledge of the powers and effects of medicine in the human body, though apparently a moſt eſſential branch of the healing art, has been far more incuriouſly cultivated, and ſtill perhaps continues leſs cleared from the errors of former ages than any other ſcience." Another writer on the ſame ſubject ſays, "it is an idle ſuppoſition to ſet out upon, that there are the

works

works of good chymiſts and good naturaliſts extant, and that from thoſe a ſufficient ſyſtem of information on this important head may be compiled. To compile with judgement requires as much knowledge of the ſubject as to write well upon it. No man is qualified to execute this to advantage, who is not able to have written what he borrows. Even the beſt and moſt authentic books on theſe ſubjects have their errors, moſt of them too many; and while he who is himſelf deficient in the knowledge of the ſubject, cannot but be liable to take in theſe with the reſt, it is evident what ſort of dependance ought to be placed on his collections."

WHATEVER anatomical ſkill a man may boaſt, yet if he is ignorant of the virtues of Medicines, or of their changes from differently compounding them together, or knows not what are the true indications in the cure, or relief of diſeaſes, he may value himſelf for expertneſs in diſſection, but every ſenſible man will hold him cheap as a phyſician.

NOBODY, who is anxious to be ſkillful in the divine art of healing, will be a niggard of the neceſſary trouble and expence of rendering himſelf intelligent in every thing his profeſſion requires he ſhould know. Whoever is ſparing of theſe has no cauſe of complaint, if he is rewarded only according to his merit, unleſs

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he would invert ſcripture and the laws of reaſon, and caſting his eyes on thoſe who have ſowed plentifully in knowledge and reaped but little pecuniary advantage from thence, think, from ſowing ſparingly, he has a better title to expect that his ignorance ſhould be rewarded with a bountiful harveſt.

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TO THE

TRUSTEES

Of the COLLEGE,

AND THE

CITIZENS

Of PHILADELPHIA.

GENTLEMEN,

THE cultivation of Science, and the progreſs of arts have juſtly merited the regard of every age and country. I eſteem myſelf happy, therefore, that I have an opportunity of delivering my ſentiments before ſo candid and learned an audience, upon a ſubject which reſpects the advancement of the moſt uſeful knowledge, and the growing credit of this inſtitution;----a ſubject as important as can well be imagined to employ our ſerious deliberation, or animate our warmeſt purſuit.

WHAT I am to propoſe is a ſcheme for tranſplanting *Medical Science* into this ſeminary, and for the improvement of every branch of the healing art.

IT muſt be confeſſed that in a knowledge of the ſupreme *Being*, and of the duties which we owe to him, conſiſts the *ſublime* of true philoſophy.

THIS is the moſt intereſting purſuit of rational creatures, as it regards the ſoul and conſtitutes the higheſt happineſs.

A KNOWLEDGE of the duties which we owe to ſociety, reſulting from the relation in which we ſtand to one another, is an object of the next importance. After this, whatever relates to the welfare of the body deſerves our moſt immediate concern.----Life, when burdened with diſeaſe, is but a complication of woes. Health is that choice ſeaſoning which gives a reliſh to all our enjoyments. As the end of medical ſcience is to reſtore and preſerve health, the welfare of every individual, of whatever age or ſex, is concerned in the improvement of it amongſt them.

MEDICINE is a ſcience as important in its object, as it is difficult in the acquiſition. It is very extenſive in its reſearches, and preſuppoſes the knowledge of many other ſciences. The cultivation of it requires

quires no ſmall abilities, and demands of thoſe who engage in the arduous purſuit an enlarged and benevolent mind. But notwitſtanding theſe difficulties, this ſcience muſt ſtill be productive of very great advantages and honour to a ſeminary of learning, to a city and to a country; where the wiſdom of well concerted laws, and the encouragement given to the promoters of it, are ſufficient to procure it an effectual eſtabiſhment.

A THIRST of knowledge and a ſpirit of inquiry are natural to man. It merits our endeavours to direct theſe to worthy objects. Whilſt we are anxious to inform ourſelves what were the cuſtoms of former ages, by what boundaries diſtant kingdoms are limited, what were the rites and ceremonies of barbarous nations, or what flowers bloom in the remote Indies;----ſhall we have no deſire of ſtudying what more immediately relates to ourſelves? ſhall we neglect to examine into the divinely curious and amazing ſtructure of our own bodies? are we not concerned in applying our purſuits, to find out the nature of thoſe multiplied calamities to which the human frame is unavoidably expoſed, and the means of removing or aſſwaging thoſe calamities?

To hint at the means whereby we may accompliſh the inſtitution of medical ſchools in this city, and to

point out ſome of the moſt conſiderable advantages it muſt be attended with, is the taſk in which I am here to engage. Upon a ſubject ſo new in this place, and ſo pregnant with the moſt intereſting conſequences, I flatter myſelf you will hear candidly what I have to impart; and let the goodneſs of my intention apologize for any inaccuracies in the execution.

It may be proper, in the firſt place, to give a general view of the boundaries of medicine, and the different provinces of this extenſive ſcience; to ſhow its preſent condition in America; the difficulties which accompany its ſtudy, and the impracticability of making any great progreſs therein, till it is put on a better footing. Theſe being explained, the means of effecting that end, and the benefits ariſing from thence will be more eaſily apprehended.

According to the learned Gaubius, "*Medicine* "*is the guardian of life and health, againſt death* "*and diſeaſe.*"* To be more particular. The Art of healing conſiſts in a thorough knowledge of the human œconomy; what conſtitutes health; what are the diſeaſes, as well internal as external, to which the body is expoſed; their ſeat, cauſes, and ſymptoms; and the means of applying with ſkill, judgment, and addreſs, the various remedies adapted to cure or mitigate them.

From

* Gaub. Inſtitut. patholog. Medic.

From this view of medicine, we readily percieve its great extent; we learn the principles on which is founded the diviſion of it, into the Study of Phyſic, more properly ſpeaking, and into Surgery.

The former is converſant about the cure of inward diſeaſes, and ſuch complaints as require the uſe of medicines. The latter principally regards external diſorders, and thoſe inward maladies which need the manual aſſiſtance of a dexterous operator to relieve them. We likewiſe underſtand the reaſon of ſo many diſtinct branches of medical ſtudy; the previous knowledge of which, both in the Phyſician and Surgeon, are requiſite in order to qualify them for ſucceſsful practice.

The neceſſity of diſcriminating between phyſic and ſurgery will more manifeſtly appear when we conſider, that they are diſtinct in their nature, and that either of them is an art, ſufficient of itſelf to engage the induſtry of one man to cultivate.

The various branches of knowledge which compoſe the ſcience of medicine, are Anatomy, Materia Medica, Botany, Chymiſtry, the Theory of medicine, and the practice.

These will be fully known by defining them ſeparately; by ſhowing what weight they bear in the ballance

ballance of healing arts; their relation to each other; and how far the knowledge of them reſpectively contributes towards the cure of diſeaſes.

ANATOMY, taken in a general ſenſe, conſiſts in knowing the ſtructure of the animal body; conſidered in particular, it implies a knowledge of the frame and organization of the human body. It teaches of what kind of ſubſtance all the parts are compoſed; it ſhews their figure, texture, firmneſs, connection, and relation to each other. From this ſource we derive our firſt knowledge of the ſeat of diſeaſes; of the proper or improper arangement of parts; of the danger or ſafety of an operation; and learn the beſt manner of performing it with dexterity and ſucceſs; In ſtudying the art of healing we commonly begin with Anatomy, and very juſtly; for, unacquainted with this, it is impoſſible to learn the functions of the body in a healthy ſtate, to know of what kind its diſeaſes are, or how to remedy them.

It is Anatomy that guides the doubtful ſtep of the young votary of medicine through an obſcure labyrinth, where a variety of minute objects preſent themſelves in ſuch a group as, at firſt, to perplex his imagination. It is Anatomy which unravels the firſt difficulties in his purſuit; it lays open to his view the diverſity of parts, their combination, diſ-

poſition,

poſition, ſubordination, and movements. Theſe, however intricate they may appear, all concur to eſtabliſh the moſt perfect harmony in the human frame, which the attentive inquirer finds from Anatomy, to be created with the moſt geometrical exactneſs, according to laws preſcribed by unerring wiſdom.

In ſhort, Anatomy is to be eſteemed one of the principal pillars, on which we are to raiſe the ſuperſtructure of medical ſcience, as well phyſic as ſurgery. Thoſe who would engage in either cannot apply themſelves too early, or with too much attention, in order to become ſkillful anatomiſts.

Can any one pretend to ſtile himſelf a *Surgeon*, or to perform any operation with ſafety, if he knows not the ſtructure of the part he is to operate upon? If he is ignorant of the muſcles which give it motion, or of the nerves which give it ſenſation, by cutting through the tendon of a muſcle, or by dividing ſome principal nerve, he may forever deprive the patient of life, or movement in the part. If he knows not the courſe and diſtribution of its veſſels, he may wound ſome conſiderable artery, and from the loſs of blood may occaſion dangerous accidents. Perhaps ſpeedy death will be the conſequence of his raſhneſs.

With what propriety can any one arrogate to himſelf the title of *Phyſician*, if he is ignorant of Anatomy? how ſhall he be able to diſcover the ſeat of a diſeaſe, or what chance has he of being in a condition to remedy it? Nor is a ſuperficial acquaintance with Anatomy ſufficient for either Phyſician or Surgeon. The latter, (that he may not miſtake what is natural for a diſeaſe, and in attempting to relieve an imaginary evil, bring on a real one;) ought to know the ſmalleſt hollow or protuberance of a bone; which ſerve in many inſtances to direct him, how far he may operate with ſafety, as the ſituation of the nerves and blood veſſels are often to be referred to them. It is requiſite for a phyſician to ſearch out every the leaſt particular in the ſtructure of all the internal parts, that he may be in a condition to diſtinguiſh the nature of the diſorder with which it is affected. As a ſkillful Pilot informs himſelf of the leaſt bank of ſand or ſhoal where he is to avoid navigating his ſhip; ſo every follower of medical purſuits ſhould be intelligent in the minutiæ of Anatomy, if he wiſhes to practice with eaſe to himſelf, and to the benefit of his patient.

The *Materia Medica and Botany may very properly be termed the natural hiſtory of medicine*, as from theſe branches of ſcience we derive our knowledge of that part of natural hiſtory, which more immediately

relates

relates to the health giving arts. How worthy of a Phyſician, a Philoſopher or a Gentleman, is the knowledge of the different productions of nature taken in its full extent? I cannot too earneſtly recommend this ſtudy to young men, to qualify them for every uſeful profeſſion that is converſant about natural objects, and eſpecially for the ſtudy of medicine. But it behoves me to ſpeak more particularly of medical natural hiſtory, if I may be allowed to adopt that term in the ſenſe I have already uſed it; and firſt of Materia Medica.

MATERIA MEDICA treats of the natural hiſtory, and medical virtues, of all thoſe bodies which are employed in diet, or in medicine. It conſiders the changes they undergo when applied to the human body, either internally or externally; and the effects they produce on the ſyſtem.

It is beyond contradiction an object of great importance, to both Phyſician and Surgeon, to be well acquainted with the Materia Medica, as it belongs to this to conſider the nature of aliments, the choice of medicines, and a knowledge of their action in the veſſels, and how they preſerve or reſtore health.

Physiology, Pathology, Chymiſtry, the Materia Medica, and indeed the ſeveral branches of medicine lend a mutual aid to one another, in a greater or leſs degree.

BOTANY is a knowlege of the natural hiſtory of vegetables. It may therefore be conſidered as part of the Materia Medica, as far at leaſt, as it is connected with the knowledge of medicine.

By the Science of Botany we learn to methodize the vegetable part of the creation, and to range vegetables in different claſſes, ſubdividing them into a variety of orders, genera, and ſpecies. Such a ſyſtematic, or botanic arrangement, as it is called, has taught us this general obſervation, that all plants of the ſame natural order have in a degree ſome common virtue. Botany thus leſſens the difficulties we muſt otherwiſe have been at in diſcovering their medical virtues. I need not therefore dwell on the importance of this ſtudy to a Phyſician and a Philoſopher.

CHYMISTRY is either Philoſophic, or Pharmaceutic. The former conſiders the particular properties of bodies, and explains their effects. It is diſtinguiſhed from natural philoſophy, as this latter is only converſant about the general properties of bodies.

PHARMACEUTIC CHYMISTRY, is that branch of philoſophic Chymiſtry, which regards the particular properties of ſuch bodies as are appropriated to medicine. It conſiders their virtues in a ſimple ſtate, or thoſe which they acquire by combination,

and

and in this has a close connection with the Materia Medica.

THERE are indeed but few substances which are used as Medicines, simply and singly, in their natural state; but they are commonly compounded by art. As it belongs to Pharmaceutic Chymistry to treat of the separation of the parts of medicinal substances from one another, and of the new properties arising from the composition or resolution of those bodies, it is manifest that this science is of essential use. Whatever skill we may boast in investigating the nature of a disease, or in understanding the structure of the body, yet without a knowledge of the instruments which are to be used, and of their properties and action upon the body, whereby they produce a change from sickness to health, other knowledge avails little in the cure of diseases.

THE THEORY of PHYSIC, more commonly termed Medical Institutions, comprehends under it, the important doctrines of Physiology and Pathology.

PHYSIOLOGY teaches the uses of the several parts in the human body, it treats of all the functions, vital, animal, and natural, in a sound state. The illustrious *Haller* very properly denominates it *animated Anatomy*.

It is the application of natural philoſophy to Anatomy, and may very well be defined *A philoſophic knowledge of the human body, or a ſcience of all the conditions ariſing from the ſtructure of its parts.* It has a foundation both in Anatomy and Philoſophy---Anatomy, in a more limited view, conſiders the ſtructure of the dead body only; but Phyſiology teaches the functions of the living body. The diſtinction will be more eaſily apprehended from obſerving, that a perſon may be a good practical Anatomiſt, and yet be ignorant of Phyſiology; but it is impoſſible to be a good Phyſiologiſt, without being an able Anatomiſt.

The great ſtock of literature, as well as genius, which is requiſite to become an adept in this ſcience, and the important nature of the ſubject it treats of, point out its dignity and excellency.

As every diſeaſe we labour under is a diſorder of the vital, animal, or natural functions; a thorough acquaintance with theſe in their ſound ſtate is implied before we can pretend to underſtand their morbid affections, or how to remedy them.

Physiology gives us the cleareſt light in the cure of diſeaſes, which is the grand object of all our inquiries in medicine. The ſtudy of it is moſt entertaining, and engages our cloſeſt attention from the many curious ſubjects with which it abounds.

PATHAOLOGY

PATHOLOGY treats of the vital, animal, and natural functions in a morbid ſtate, as Phyſiology does in a ſound healthful condition. It traces out the ſeat of diſeaſes, examines their cauſes and effects, ſhews their differences, explains their ſymptoms, and all the different phœnomena, which reſult from various affections of the ſyſtem, it prognoſticates the event, and indicates the general method of treatment. In ſhort, it forms a ſyſtem of precepts in the art of healing. It is the immediate guide to practice, and a very capital part of medical knowledge.

THE ſmalleſt reflection is ſufficient to diſcover the intimate connection of Phyſiolgy and Pathology, and the ſubſerviency of the former to the latter.

LET no man lay claim to the dignified title of *Phyſician*, who is not thoroughly converſant in the medical inſtitutions. Without this knowledge, we have no better right to take upon us the cure of diſeaſes, than *a blind man to judge of colours, or a deaf man of ſounds.*

THE PRAXIS, or PRACTICE OF MEDICINE, is immediately converſant about diſeaſes themſelves, and treats in the moſt particular manner of their nature, ſpecific difference, their cauſes and ſymptoms, and eſpecially the method of curing them, or alleviating the ſeverity of them when incurable.

THIS

This part therefore, as it teaches us the univerſal application of the precepts derived from a juſt reaſoning and accurate obſervations made upon diſeaſes, is unqueſtionably to be accounted the finiſhing part of Medicine.

As the end of our purſuits is more noble than the means, the importance and dignity of practice are therefore evident; and in as far as the knowledge of the other branches are not conſidered in ſubſerviency to this, they are merely ſpeculative; though they muſt be allowed to afford a ſpeculation of a very ſublime nature.

Medical Science is one whole, of which all the branches I have enumerated are the ſeveral parts. They may be conſidered as the links of a chain that have a mutual connection with one another. Anatomy, Materia Medica, Botany, Chymiſtry, and the Inſtitutions, are only the ladder by which we are to mount up to practice. A general knowledge, at leaſt, in each one of them, is uſeful to both Phyſician and Surgeon; particularly to the former, who in proportion as he is more intimately acquainted with them all, will become more ſkillful in the healing ſcience. For, although he confines himſelf to his proper province of preſcribing for diſeaſes, yet ought he to underſtand the principles of the entire art, and more eſpecially he ought to be very converſant

verſant in practice. Seeing the life and health of mankind is the object of medicine, ignorance of the practice is a grand defect in a Phyſician, and an unpardonable crime, as attended with irreparable injuries.

The great extent of medical ſcience, which comprehends under it ſo many different branches, makes it impoſſible to learn it thoroughly without we follow a certain order. Whilſt we neglect this, all our ideas are but crude conceptions, a rope of ſand, without any firm connection. Should the ſtudent, as chance or whim might direct, ſometimes apply himſelf to one branch, ſometimes to another; or read indiſcriminately even the beſt authors on the different parts of Medicine; for want of method, all his knowledge would be ſuperficial; though he might take as much pains as would ſuffice to make him eminently ſkillful, had he from the beginning purſued a well concerted plan. What progreſs could we make in Mathematics, if we did not proceed ſtep by ſtep, and in a certain order?

The knowledge of the more intricate and hidden truths of ſcience are to be developed by degrees. We can only arrive at them by the aſſiſtance of other more obvious truths, which they are connected with, and which lead us to them by a certain chain of facts, obſervations, and juſt deductions in a train

of

of ſtrict reaſoning. Medical truths riſe out of one another, in ſome meaſure, like the propoſitions of Euclid. If we did not underſtand the demonſtration of the firſt, we ſhould not be able to percieve the proof of the more intricate ones that follow, which can only be explained by means of them, as a certainty of the latter depends upon the evidence of the former. What would require years of ſtudy to gain a ſuperficial acquaintance with, if we followed no juſt plan, may be attained within as few months, by purſuing a regular ſyſtem; ſo much does method contribute to facilitate our progreſs.

The order which I would recommend in the ſtudy of Medicine is to begin with Anatomy; then what I have called medical natural Hiſtory, viz. The Materia Medica and Botany; Chymiſtry ſhould follow; the Inſtitutes come next; and the Study of Practice ſhould compleat the work.

Thus I have ſketched out a general plan of ſtudying Medicine, which it will be of the higheſt conſequence for ſtudents to obſerve. It belongs to the teachers of the ſeveral branches, to give more minute directions with regard to the particular conduct of each reſpective one. It will not be improper however to obſerve here, that young men ought to come well prepared for the ſtudy of Medicine, by having their minds enriched with all the aids

they

they can receive from the languages, and the liberal arts. Latin and Greek are very neceſſary to be known by a Phyſician. The latter contains the rich original treaſures of ancient medical ſcience, and of the firſt parents of the healing arts. The former contains all the wealth of more modern literature. It is the vehicle of knowledge in which the learned men of every nation in Europe chooſe to convey their ſentiments, and communicate their diſcoveries to the world. As it is the beſt known of the dead languages, it is choſen as the moſt proper one, by the various nations of Europe, for a medium of intercourſe amongſt the learned, that is equally attainable by every one of them Hence it becomes indiſpenſably neceſſary for a Phyſician, who is to derive his knowledge from ſo many different ſources, to be well acquainted with Latin.

The French language has prevailed much in Europe. The advantages which we may reap from the writings of many eminent men, and of many learned ſocieties, which are publiſhed in French, make the knowledge of this language very valuable alſo to a Phyſician.

An acquaintance with Mathematics and natural Philoſophy we cannot diſpenſe with, ſince we can go but ſmall lengths in natural or medical inquiries without their aſſiſtance. Happy are we to

have all theſe taught in ſuch perfection in this place. Deſtitute of that general knowledge which unveils to us the operations of nature, we cannot penetrate into thoſe truths, that form the rules by which we ought to conduct ourſelves, in the cure of diſeaſes.

THERE is no art yet known which may not contribute ſomewhat to the improvement of Medicine; nor is there any one which requires more aſſiſtance than that of Phyſic from every other ſcience. Let young men therefore, who would engage in the purſuit of Medicine or Surgery, make uſe of all their induſtry, to poſſeſs themſelves in good time of theſe acquiſitions. They are neceſſary to facilitate a progreſs in the healing arts; they embelliſh the underſtanding, and give many peculiar advantages, unattainable without them.

So much being ſaid of the nature of medical knowledge, we are the better prepared to form a judgment on the ſubject propoſed. Let us now take a general view of the ſtate of Phyſic as hitherto practiſed in America.

AND here we may congratulate ourſelves, that in this, and ſome of the large neighbouring towns, we have a number of ſkillful phyſicians and expert ſurgeons, qualified by genius, education, and experience, to take charge of the health of their fellow creatures.

creatures. Under theſe it is the cuſtom of medical ſtudents to enter as apprentices, in order to learn their practice, and get an acquaintance with their profeſſion. This it muſt be allowed is a great advantage; but if we add to it, a caſual converſation ſometimes with the moſt able maſters whom they can have acceſs to conſult, an intercourſe with one another, and a reciprocal communication of ſentiment and obſervation, together with reading what authors they can procure on the various ſubjects of which this ſcience treats; theſe make the ſum total of the beſt medical education in America. How lame and inſufficient it is muſt appear to all who have the leaſt intelligence in theſe matters; but will be ſeen more evidently, I imagine, as we examine it more nearly.

If, as I before obſerved, it is neceſſary that a plan be marked out for directing Students, and that they ſhould be taught a regular courſe of every diſtinct branch of Medicine; the infant ſtate of the colonies, and the want of profeſſed teachers, have hitherto cloged medical purſuits in America with innumerable obſtacles.

Never yet has there offered a coalition of able men, who would undertake to give compleat and regular courſes of Lectures on the different branches of Medicine; and ſuch an extenſive field it is, as requires the united efforts of ſeveral co-operating together,

gether, to cultivate it with ſucceſs. As well might a parent take upon himſelf the private tuition of his ſon, and to make him maſter of all the different languages, arts, and ſciences, which are generally deemed requiſite, previous to his entering upon the higher ſtudies of Law, Phyſic and Divinity; as that a Phyſician, engaged in an extenſive practice, ſhould undertake to deliver to his apprentices, in a regular manner, the precepts of his art in all its branches. This is as impracticable as it is unreaſonable to expect. In ſpite of himſelf and his inclination to qualify young men in the profeſſion, they muſt of neceſſity be left, for the moſt part, more to their own ingenuity, and precarious application, than a good man could wiſh. Theſe are difficulties which he would rejoice to have removed; but they are evils which have hitherto been without a remedy. The fatigue, the greatneſs of expence, and the want of leiſure time, which phyſicians involved in buſineſs cannot command, are bars, which thoſe moſt willing to perfect ſtudents cannot get over.

YOUNG men, who are limited to the preſent opportunities of improvement in America, cannot enter upon the ſtage of action, but with unfavourable proſpects, and they muſt unavoidably be in continual perplexities. For ſeldom can we hope to ſee thoſe who from too great forwardneſs, or too narrow circumſtances, engage untimely in the practice of their profeſſion, ever become more than ſervile imitators

of

of others. They blindly purſue an uncertain tract, in which they muſt conſtantly wander, ſince it is ſo often obſcured, and inſufficient to conduct them any great length.

A contracted view of Medicine naturally confines a man to a very narrow circle, and limits him to a few partial indications in the cure of diſeaſes. He ſoon gets through his little ſtock of knowledge; he repeats over and over his round of preſcriptions, the ſame almoſt in every caſe; and, although he is continually embarraſſed, has the vanity to believe that, from the few maxims which he has adopted, he has within himſelf all the principles of medical knowledge, and that he has exhauſted all the reſources of art. This is a notion ſubverſive of all improvement. It flatters the imagination of the indolent, as it diſpenſes with thoſe toilſome labours which are neceſſary to the production of truth; and chains him down to a dangerous rotine of practice, unworthy the name of art.

The induſtry of many centuries have already been employed to bring Phyſic to that degree of perfection at which it is now arrived. It will ſtill require a long time to remove the obſcurities which yet veil many parts of it. The application of many, amongſt the greateſt of men, has hitherto been ininſufficient to clear up all our doubts in medicine. How then can it be ſuppoſed that any one, untutored in this art, can by his own natural abilities ever

reach

reach the bounds of what is already known in it? The great multiplicity of diſeaſes, which beſet the human race, preſent us with a field too vaſt and unknown for individuals to cultivate by themſelves. Their cauſes are frequently ſo latent, and the uſual reſources of art ſo often fail the moſt ſkillful, as to compel them to ſeek out new paths in which they may proceed.

For a man of the moſt finiſhed genius to enter upon practice, having only that ſtock of knowledge with which his own obſervation and experience could ſupply him, unenlightened by thoſe diſcoveries which others have made, would be an act of preſumption. Had this been ſufficient to conduct us to the ſummit of our art, it would have been in a ſtate of perfection many ages ago.

Observation and phyſical experiments ſhould blend their light to diſſipate obſcurity from medicine. This is the more needful, as nature commonly offers herſelf to our notice under a cloud, and requires that we ſhould follow her ſteps with ſcrupulous attention, watch all her motions, and trace her through every meander ſhe makes, in order to diſcern clearly the tract ſhe keeps in. * "In a courſe of obſervation, "the mind is but a mere ſpectator, and only ſees "external appearances. We muſt aid theſe with the "light of Philoſophy to unveil knowledge fully. We "muſt dive into the bottom of things by repeated and

* Vid. Preface to the memoirs of the royal Academy of Surgery at Paris.

" and different experiments, and, as is were, force " nature to yield herſelf up to our inquiries."

To accompliſh this demands the brighteſt talents, a liberal education and great experience. We cannot ſuppoſe then that a Student of ordinary parts can, by any means of himſelf, acquire ſufficient ſkill in medicine to take charge properly of the lives of mankind.

The almoſt infinite number of objects, to which he ought to be no ſtranger, paſs before him ſo very ſlowly, that the longeſt life would offer to his contemplation but a very inconſiderable ſhare of thoſe, with which he may be made acquainted, in the ſeveral branches of his profeſſion, by the inſtruction of able maſters. Shall a novice then hope, merely by his own abilities, to raiſe a ſuperſtructure comparable to that already built up to his hands, which has exhauſted the ingenuity and invention, and employed the induſtry of ſome thouſand years? Where will the moſt extenſive practice be ſufficient; and how comparitively little will the moſt enlarged faculties contribute, to furniſh him with a ten thouſandth part of the materials?

Should we for a moment turn our eyes upon the man, who dares to enter upon the practice of Phyſic, without being properly initiated in the ſcience, or inſtructed in the important duties of the profeſſion, he would ſoon preſent us with a melancholy proſpect. If not paſt all feelings of humanity, what compunctions of conſcience, what remorſe would not fill his

breaſt

breaſt from practiſing at random and in the dark; not knowing whether his preſcription might prove a wholeſome remedy, or a deſtructive poiſon. To diſcover the nature of an uncommon diſeaſe, or to account for an unuſual ſymptom, puzzles his invention.---- Ignorant of every true principle, from which, by a juſt reaſoning, he might be able to deduce practical interrences, he knows not what prognoſtic to make, or what plan of treatment to obſerve.-----Unſteady and irreſolute, he attempts a variety of means; ſuch as either avail not, or ſuch as heighten the danger of the diſeaſe, already too violent.----He may thus interrupt the ſalutary attempts of nature, or, not knowing how to ſecond them, tamper with the life of his patient, and idly waiting to ſee what nature herſelf is capable of doing, neglect to ſuccour her, till it is too late, and the fatal hand of death is juſt cloſing the gloomy ſcene.-----Wretched is the caſe of thoſe whom chance, or miſinformed judgment, ſhall throw into his hands, to fall victims of his temerity.----Great is the havock which his ignorance ſpreads on every ſide, robbing the affectionate huſband of his darling ſpouſe, or rendering the tender wife a helpleſs widow;----increaſing the number of orphans;----- mercileſsly depriving them of their parent's ſupport;----bereaving the afflicted parents of their only comfort and hope, by the untimely death of their beloved infants, and laying whole families deſolate. Remorſeleſs foe to mankind! actuated by more than ſavage cruelty! hold, hold thy exterminating hand----

Glad

GLAD ſhould I be to moderate this too exact deſcription of the effects of ignorant and preſumptuous practice; but what judgment can we paſs on thoſe, who have been ſcarcely inſtructed in the firſt elements of medical ſcience, and yet force themſelves into practice, as if they meant to ſport themſelves with human life, and human calamities?

A VERY judicious perſon ‡ has remarked, that Medicine is the ſcience concerning which people in common take upon them to reaſon moſt, without having the leaſt notion.------ Who, that has not made Mathematics his ſtudy, will preſume to argue upon any of the difficult calculations of Algebra? But when medical ſubjects are the topic, doubtleſs we are maſters of them without ſtudy. It muſt be confeſſed indeed, if we know much about medicine without being educated in it, that our ideas of it are truly innate.

ABSTRACT truth is at all times but a ſimple undivided object, yet has ten thouſand counterfeits to impoſe upon the unwary. No wonder that the impatient ardor of youth, who cannot brook delay, or always take the neceſſary time to diſtinguiſh truth from falſehood, aſpiring to reach the top of ſcience by a rapid flight, hurries them on in a too unguarded manner, when left to themſelves, and thus

 precipitates

‡ Monſ. Süe, profeſſor of Anatomy.

precipitates them into the groſſeſt errors. In medicine, as in other ſciences, if they do not ſet out on ſound principles, they paſs on from error to error and multiply miſtakes, unable to diveſt themſelves of their firſt prejudices, which, being confirmed by habit, become a ſecond nature.

Eaſy it is to fall into errors, hard to recover ourſelves from them.

Facilis deſcenſus Averni:
ſed revocare gradum, hoc opus, hic labor eſt. †

With greater eaſe we may ſow juſt principles in the beginning, than clear away the rank weeds of popular prejudices, after having had time to take deep root, and fix themſelves firmly in the minds of ſtudents.

Let us now turn our views to the growing ſtate of this and the neighbouring colonies; let us reflect on the great number of inhabitants ſcattered through ſuch an extenſive tract of country, who are deſtitute of all the aids of medical ſcience. Let us conſider further, that in many large towns and villages, there are a number of perſons entruſted with the practice of medicine and ſurgery, who, being deſtitute of all means of acquiring the true principles of their profeſſion, remain in a pitiful ſtate of ignorance in it, without any proſpect or opportunity of correcting their errors, or greatly improving their knowledge.

† Virgil: Æn. vi

knowledge. We cannot then remain untouched with ſentiments of compaſſion; we cannot avoid feeling part of their diſtreſs, or forbear to wiſh that a remedy were found for ſo great a misfortune.

Nor is this ſo deſirable an object quite beyond our reach. The inſtitution of ſchools for teaching the ſeveral branches of the healing arts muſt have a very great tendency to effect our wiſhes. To the full accompliſhment of theſe nothing can contribute more powerfully, than the reſolution the truſtees of this ſeminary have taken, to countenance this ſcheme which I have had the honour of propoſing; and their encouragement of ſuch perſons as, upon due information, they ſhall find qualified to take upon them the important offices of profeſſors, in the various branches of Medicine.

Although we may not be in a condition to enter upon every part of this great undertaking immediately, yet we may lay a foundation, which cannot fail of being built upon ſhortly by thoſe who follow us. Time will perfect what is properly begun. What indeed is all ſcience, but the accumulated obſervations and diſcoveries of a ſucceſſion of many people, framed into a ſyſtem? When this is once accompliſhed, every individual may then avail himſelf of the labours of others, and

thus arrive, in a compendious manner, at a competent knowledge of any art. This is happy for us, ſeeing life is ſhort, and the human mind neceſſarily occupied with a great number of purſuits, very different from our particular profeſſions, which would not allow us otherwiſe to go any great lengths.

From the union of ingenious men the arts find reſources, never to be met with in the labours of individuals, with whom the moſt uſeful truths are frequently buried; whilſt ſocieties form a kind of magazine, which collects together all the knowledge of the learned, and conſecrates it to public utility. It eſtabliſhes a commerce for the community, which never periſhes, but from age to age is a fruitful ſource of new acquiſitions. † What rapid progreſs have we not ſometimes ſeen in ſcience from a conſpiration of counſel and induſtry? Thus inſtitutions, which have appeared inconſiderable at firſt, improve faſt, and make haſty ſtrides towards importance and grandure. This very Seminary, of late only a collection of private ſchools, although of ſo ſhort a ſtanding, has increaſed its reputation and uſefulneſs, ſo far as to attract the notice of our mother country; and already begins to flouriſh, beyond what could reaſonably be expected in ſo ſhort a time.

Of what conſequence the united efforts of men learned in their profeſſion are, the medical colleges of

† Preface to memoirs of Royal Acad. of Surgery.

of Edinburgh afford a remarkable inſtance. Within the ſpace of little more than forty years, the preſent profeſſorſhips in Medicine were firſt formed. A few gentlemen from Scotland, then proſecuting their medical ſtudies at Leyden, concerted a plan, and undertook, themſelves, the important charge of inſtituting ſchools for teaching the various branches of Medicine. They met with countenance and ſupport from the patrons of the univerſity, and by the great abilities, aſſiduity, and experience of thoſe gentlemen, and ſome few of their ſucceſſors, the reputation of that place is raiſed to ſuch a height, that, to their immortal-honour, it already rivals, if not ſurpaſſes that of every other ſchool of Phyſic in Europe. The names of Drummond, Dick, Clerk, Rutherford, Sinclair, Alſton, Plummer, Monroe, Whytt, Cullen, Hope, Black, and ſome others, are now known wherever the knowledge of Phyſic is cultivated; and they are revered at home as parents and guardians of the healing arts. There is a great reſort of medical ſtudents at the univerſity of Edinburgh, as well from Great-Britain, Ireland, and the Weſt-Indies, as from the Continents of Europe and America. Theſe bring to the univerſity and city conſiderable advantages, and, in return, carry the fame of their learning and their profeſſors to every quarter of the globe. Were it neceſſary I could eaſily enumerate many ſimiliar inſtances of the

improvement

improvement of ſcience; but theſe, I imagine, will ſuffice for the preſent.

WHY ſhould we be deterred from eſtabliſhing like inſtitutions of Medicine in this ſeminary, eſpecially as ſo many circumſtances conſpire to invite and encourage ſo important an undertaking. I ſhall briefly enumerate the moſt intereſting of them.

THE city of Philadelphia, adorned with a ſet of eminent practitioners, draws to it a great number of pupils, from the neighbouring parts, to learn the arts of Phyſic and Surgery. We may reaſonably expect, that from the propoſed inſtitution, the number of ſtudents, who ſhall reſort hither to partake of theſe advantages, will be gradually augmented.

BESIDES men of great abilities and eminence, under whom they may ſee private practice, the hoſpital of this city is a great perſuaſive to determine a concourſe of medical ſtudents to this place. It would be doubly uſeful to them, and increaſe their motive of repairing here, if they could be firſt properly initiated in the principles of their profeſſion, by regular courſes of lectures duly delivered.

THIS

This noble charity, maintained by the donations of the benevolent at no ſmall expence, ſupports a great number of ſick of both ſexes. As there are ſix phyſicians of the moſt unqueſtionable ſkill, integrity, and character, who, moved by the tender principles of humanity, have taken upon them the charge of attending the ſick gratuitouſly; pupils here meet with ſuch a number of caſes, both chronic and acute, treated ſo judiciouſly, and ſo agreeable to the rules of art, as cannot fail very much to facilitate the knowledge of their profeſſion.

It is a moſt favourable circumſtance to the undertaking which I have ſuggeſted, that of theſe ſix phyſicians, no leſs than five of them are truſtees of this college. We may from hence, I think, ſafely infer, that every thing in their power may be hoped for, to ſecond the medical inſtitutions of the college, by uniting with them the advantages of the hoſpital, and thus rendering the education of youth in the healing arts as compleat as poſſible in this city; to which nothing can contribute more than a courſe of clinical practice and clinical lectures, by phyſicians of knowledge and experience. *

The

* Beſides thoſe who are apprentices to, or under the immediate tuition of the hoſpital phyſicians, every ſtudent of Medicine in town is admitted to ſee their common practice in the hoſpital, upon paying a certain ſum annually during his attendance there. It were to be wiſhed that ſome of thoſe gentlemen, ſo ſkillful and experienced in the healing arts, enriched with uſeful obſervations, which only time, and an extenſive practice can furniſh, would undertake to give

a

THE flouriſhing ſtate of literature in this college, and the perfection in which the languages, mathematics, and polite arts are taught here, are ſtrong inducements for ſuch young men as propoſe engaging in the ſtudy of Medicine, to enter the college. Becauſe when medical lectures are given under the patronage of the truſtees and faculty, at the ſame time that ſtudents are proſecuting other parts of learning, they will have greater advantages there than hitherto they have enjoyed. Thus the motives of repairing to Philadelphia for the ſtudy of Medicine and Surgery will multiply in proportion.

THIS city, ſo large, in ſuch a thriving ſtate, and ſo extremely beautiful and pleaſant in its ſituation, as well as ſo nearly central to all the colonies on the continent, has peculiar advantages in reſpect to the reſort of ſtudents; which added to the advantage of the

a courſe of clinical lectures, in order to explain the hoſpital practice; the ſtudents paying ſuch reaſonable fees to thoſe clinical teachers as may be thought adequate to their trouble. This is a ſtep of the greateſt and moſt obvious utility to both hoſpital and ſtudent, conſonant to reaſon and the uſage of ſome of the beſt hoſpitals in Europe.

From my perſonal acquaintance with many of the managers when I attended the hoſpital ſome years ago, I am perſuaded they would readily encourage this plan. Their known benevolence and ardent deſire of contributing all in their power towards the improvement of medical arts, as well as relief of the ſick; and thus uniting two of the moſt valuable purpoſes of ſuch a foundation, lead me to think ſo.

When two ſuch important inſtitutions, as a medical college and a well regulated hoſpital, contribute mutually to the advantage of each other, all ranks and conditions of people would no doubt moſt chearfully unite in ſupport of a common intereſt, ſo beneficial to uſeful literature, and ſo advantageous to the province in general.

the college, hoſpital, and the different courſes of lectures, could not fail of bringing a concourſe of ſtrangers to this place.

The eſtabliſhment of a medical library in this college would prove another great benefit to ſtudents, and tend likewiſe to influence their reſort hither. Proper means may poſſibly be ſuggeſted to accompliſh this, without any great additional charge to the college. The pupils that attend lectures, for whoſe advantage it is intended, may, upon being matriculated, afford each of them to contribute annually a ſmall ſum. This from a number of pupils, in a ſucceſſion of ſome years, would be of conſiderable ſervice towards procuring a medical library. Perhaps the phyſicians of Philadelphia, touched with generous ſentiments of regard for the riſing generation, and the manifeſt advantages accruing to the college thereby, would ſpare ſome uſeful books, or contribute ſomewhat as a foundation on which we might begin.

The growth of this and the neighbouring colonies calls aloud for a medical inſtitution. The increaſing number of inhabitants demands an increaſe of thoſe who exerciſe the profeſſion of Medicine and Surgery, and ought to be an argument with all of us, who regard either the preſent or future advantages of the country, to attend ſeriouſly to the importance of the ſubject.

The ſcheme of eſtabliſhing medical lectures, which I now ſubject with all deference to your conſideration, has been communicated to ſome very competent and unbiaſſed judges in England, who not only deem it practicable, but a laudable and uſeful enterprize. The great and well known Dr. Fothergill, the juſtly celebrated Dr. Hunter, and the learned Dr. Watſon, men diſtinguiſhed for their ſuperior knowledge in literature, and particularly eminent in every thing which relates to medical ſcience, have eſteemed the improvement of ſuch knowledge amongſt us worthy of notice, and the inſtitution of lectures in every branch of Medicine as deſerving the patronage of all who wiſh well to arts and ſciences. It would therefore argue great inattention in us to neglect the firſt opportunity that offers, of giving effect and ſtability to the deſign. Nor can we defer the execution of it at this time, without riſquing the loſs of the noble proſpect which it affords, not eaſily to be retrieved.

It is with the higheſt ſatisfaction I am informed from Dr. Shippen, junior, that in an addreſs to the public as introductory to his firſt anatomical courſe, he propoſed ſome hints of a plan for giving medical lectures amongſt us. But I do not learn that he recommended at all a collegiate undertaking of this kind. What led me to it was the obvious

utility

utility that would attend it, and the desire I had of presenting, as a tribute of gratitude to my alma mater, a full and enlarged plan for the institution of Medicine, in all its branches, in this seminary where I had part of my education, being amongst the first sons who shared in its public honours. I was further induced to it from a consideration, that private schemes of propagating knowledge are instable in their nature, and that the cultivation of useful learning can only be effectually promoted under those who are patrons of science, and under the authority and direction of men incorporated for the improvement of literature.

Should the trustees of the college think proper to found a professorship in Anatomy, Dr. Shippen having been concerned already in teaching that branch of medical science is a circumstance favourable to our wishes. Few here can be ignorant of the great opportunities he has had abroad of qualifying himself in Anatomy, and that he has already given three courses thereof in this city, and designs to enter upon a fourth course next Winter.

I propose in a few months to employ myself in giving a course of lectures on the Materia Medica, in which the pharmaceutic treatment of medicines, as well as their virtues, will be described, and the

doctrines of the chymical properties of bodies will be conſidered, as far as is uſeful to give a general idea of Chymiſtry, and as is conſiſtent with a courſe of the Materia Medica. Next year I deſign to attempt a courſe of lectures upon the Inſtitutes or Theory of Medicine, which will be illuſtrated with practical obſervations. Poſſibly in a few years more, perſons duly qualified may offer to undertake full and compleat courſes of every branch of medicine; and a plan may be adopted, conformable to that which is followed in the, ſo juſtly celebrated, ſchool of phyſic at Edinburgh.

The regular diſtribution of literary honours upon the deſerving is a ſtep, which is neglected in no inſtitution that promiſes fair to be extenſively uſeful. As it is ſometimes prejudicial to attempt a ſcheme entirely out of our reach, ſo, on the other hand, a too contracted plan often mars the work altogether, or fruſtrates the great utility which might be derived from a more finiſhed model. Let us aim then to diſtinguiſh worth with adequate rewards, and confer due honours on real merit. This will, render the inſtitution compleat, and give all poſſible encouragement to pupils.

As you have hitherto been ſo careful not to proſtitute the honours of this ſeminary on any occaſion

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by conferring them on the undeſerving; and have made degrees in arts not an unmeaning title, but an honourable badge of diſtinction, you have given ſolid reputation to thoſe who have been educated here. You have thus conducted them with eclat to the ſtudy of the learned profeſſions, or uſhered them into other uſeful ſpheres of life with luſtre and advantage. The ſame regard being had to the higher degrees of literature would increaſe theſe good effects. In a ſhort time, every perſon would be aſhamed to think of practiſing phyſic, who had not induſtriouſly cultivated the beſt opportunities of inſtruction. He would otherwiſe be marked out by every intelligent man, as one who had never been properly initiated in his profeſſion, and, conſequently, as unequal to the taſk which he had preſumptuouſly engaged in.

If the ſeveral parts of the deſign, which I have pointed out as practicable to execute, meet with that attention which they ſeem to merit, it is not to be doubted that, in a ſhort time, medicine will put on the form of a regular ſcience, and be ſucceſsfully cultivated in the College. And ſuppoſing we are not able to meet with gentlemen already in circumſtances to engage in every part of the work, we may however hope that a laudable ambition, ſentiments of honour, and the intereſt of the public weal will prompt ſome of the riſing ſtudents, among

mong ourſelves, of more than ordinary talents, to cultivate with the utmoſt application the particular branches of medicine, to which they find their genius more eſpecially point. It is to be hoped that they will avail themſelves of every opportunity of improvement by going abroad, and on their return, tranſplant hither, to the great emolument of the community, every different branch of knowledge relative to their profeſſion. Is it not probable that ſuch a plan as this laid before them will open the views, ſpur on the ambition, and allure the induſtry of ſtudents, ſo that we may hope to ſee, in ſome years, a number of gentlemen, natives of America, qualified to fill the moſt difficult and important parts of their profeſſion, with uſefulneſs and applauſe?

It may perhaps be objected, that the colonies are yet in ſo infant a ſtate that any attempt to eſtabliſh medical ſchools is premature. It may be imagined, that it will prevent many from going abroad, to obtain a more compleat education. Let it be conſidered, that every one, whoſe circumſtances allow of this, will have a plan before them, and every incitement to render their education as perfect as poſſible. Many who are not in a condition to ſupport the expence of being educated abroad, by being inſtructed here in the firſt elements of their profeſſion, and informed what further remains to be done, have it in their power to finiſh their ſtudies abroad

afterwards

afterwards with advantage. This claſs perhaps includes the greateſt part of medical ſtudents.

The ſaving of money may be thought more neceſſary at this juncture, when the check which our commerce has received makes it ſo ſcarce amongſt us.

Some there are indeed, and not a few, who cannot by any means afford the expence of croſſing the Atlantic, to proſecute their ſtudies abroad. The propoſed inſtitution will therefore prove highly beneficial to every claſs of ſtudents in Medicine.

There is a difficulty indeed in the way of the undertaking of great weight, which it were to be wiſhed could be ſurmounted; I mean in caſe all the different branches of medicine ſhould be blended in the practice of any profeſſor. This evil would call aloud for a remedy. The love of humanity prompts every ingenious man, engaged in that part of medical purſuits which he likes beſt, to proſecute it with aſſiduity and conſtancy. The bounds of life are the only limits to his induſtry. He devotes himſelf entirely to a toilſome ſtudy, but which ceaſes to appear ſo to him, when the intereſts of humanity are the fruits of his labours. There are men ſo intent upon improving favourite ſtudies, that a labour of very many years is but a conſtant exerciſe of the eyes and hands, by which the ſcience in general is greatly

enriched

enriched, whilſt they themſelves remain in a ſhameful indigence and obſcurity, neglected by thoſe to whom their labours prove ſo beneficial. †

WHILST Medicine from the greatneſs of its object, the preſervation of the ſpecies, is one of the moſt uſeful ſubjects of knowledge to a ſtate, and at the ſame time one of the moſt extenſive and difficult; we muſt regret that the very different employment of a Phyſician, Surgeon, and Apothecary, ſhould be promiſcuouſly followed by any one man, however great his abilities. They certainly require very different talents. The infant ſtate of a place, is ſometimes uſed as an argument, not in ſupport, but as an apology for ſuch meaſures. The longer we follow any faulty cuſtom, the more difficult we find the taſk to break through the ſhackles of it, even when it enſlaves us to our greateſt detriment.

EVERY mechanic art, and almoſt every employment in life, ſerve as inſtructive leſſons to the practicioners of Medicine. The conſtruction of a watch, the building of a houſe, nay the making of a pin, are ſtriking examples of the truth of this aſſertion. In each of them a number of different artiſts are employed, who confining themſelves every one to his own branch of buſineſs, the whole work is more quickly finiſhed, and more highly improved. The length to which human ſkill may arrive, when thus pro-

† Memoirs of the Royal Academy of Surgery.

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perly directed is amazing. Why then ſhould we continue to follow ſuch a variety of different occupations as are generally crouded together in the practice of the healing art? The mutual intereſt of patient and practitioner ſeem to require a different procedure. The chief argument alledged for it, viz. that it is leſs expenſive, is altogether fallacious, and, unleſs I am much out in my conjectures, it will be found a very difficult taſk to prove the aſſertion. But granting it to be truely ſo, yet when life is the object at ſtake, a notion of cheapening health, and a diſparagement of the practitioners ſkill, argue a ſordid mind, and will, in the end, always diſcover a moſt miſtaken plan of œconomy.

If Phyſic, Surgery, and Pharmacy were in different hands, practitioners would then enjoy much more ſatisfaction in practice. They would commonly be leſs burdened with an over hurry of buſineſs, and have an opportunity of ſtudying the caſes of the ſick at more leiſure. Would not this tend to the more ſpeedy relief of diſeaſes and the perfection of medical ſcience, as every Phyſician would have more time by ſtudy, obſervation, and experience united, to cultivate that knowledge which is the only foundation of practice? "This knowledge, ſought out by Philoſophy, drawn from nature and the operation of Medicines, and founded upon the cauſes of our complaints, upon obſervations of their ſigns and upon the laws of the animal œconomy, form

the true Theory, without which, there is neither art nor method in the treatment of diſeaſes. But how great is the force of prejudice, that practitioners, who affect a ſeducing kind of ſimplicity, ſhould look upon thoſe perſons with diſdain, who divide their application between ſtudy and practice; they inſpire a contempt for Theory, whereby they impoſe on the public who are no judges of its uſefulneſs. Thus the moſt groſs ignorance finds, in credulity, a too ſure means of decrying that knowledge which can alone direct our ſteps with certainty. Ought we then to endeavour to render the art compleat, by attending only to the progreſs of that experience which is acquired by practice, which frequently begets ſo much vanity and ſeduces the vulgar ?" * Let us rather commend thoſe who would be afraid of making no further advance in the healing arts, if they were compelled to abandon ſtudy and to give themſelves up wholly to practice; and who examine themſelves every year, to know what progreſs they have made in the knowledge of diſeaſes. The great BOERHAAVE, whoſe example

* Mais telle eſt la force de Prèjugès : Ces Praticiens, dis je, qui ſe parent d'une ſimplicitè sèduiſante, regardent avec dèdain ceux qui partagent leur application entre l'etude et la pratique ; ils inſpirent du mèpris pour la theorie, et en impoſent au public, qui n'en ſçauroit connoître l'utilitè. C'eſt ainſi que l'ignorance la plus groſſiere trouve dans la credulitè un moyen toujours trop ſur pour flètrir le ſçavoir, qui peut ſeul aſſurer nos pas.

Doit on en attendre les progrès de cette experience qui s' acquiert par la ſeule pratique, qui inſpire ſi ſouvent tant de vanitè et qui ſeduit le vulgaire ? &c. &c.

Vid. mem. de l'Acad : royal ; de Chirurg : de Paris.

example is worthy of imitation, laid it down to himſelf, as an inviolable law, to divide his time between ſtudy and practice.

WHERE abilities and the love of a profeſſion unite, there is the ſureſt preſage of ſucceſs. But unhappy is the Phyſician, who has a ſoul turned to philoſophical inquiries, who loves to ſearch into the cauſes, and inveſtigate the phœnomena of diſeaſes; and yet is at the ſame time diverted from theſe uſeful reſearches, by other occupations to which he has an averſion. How diſagreeable! how cruel a caſe is it to be forced, in compliance with cuſtom, to ſtifle the tender feelings of humanity; to take the knife into his unſteady hand; and in ſpite of reluctant nature within him, to be obliged to perform ſome painful and tedious operation on the ſuffering patient! better conſigned to one whoſe inclination, experience, and addreſs, qualify him for the irkſome, but needful taſk!

ON the other hand, a ſpirit of intrepidity and a particular turn of mind carry many beyond the horrors which get the better of others. Fired at the ſame time with a like love of humanity, and filled with deſires of relieving the calamities to which external violence, and innumerable accidents both from within and from without ſubject our lot, they apply themſelves with the moſt laudable zeal and aſſiduity, to improve that eſſential

part of the healing art which is capable of giving effectual aid by the painful, but wholeſome ſeverity of manual operation.

To render any perſon dextrous in the operations of Surgery, however intrepid he may naturally be, it is neceſſary that he ſhould practiſe them often, and devote himſelf to them. This is inconſiſtent with the occupation of a Phyſician involved in a multiplicity of buſineſs, and requiring leiſure to ſtudy the caſes of his patients, who linger under a complication of evils widely different.

It is to lovers of humanity like theſe, ſo differently occupied, that ſome owe the movement of their limbs, others the mitigation of obſtinate diſeaſes, and others the prolongation and pleaſure of their lives.

The buſineſs of Pharmacy is entirely different from either. Free from the cares of both, the Apothecary is to prepare and compound medicines as the Phyſician ſhall direct. Altogether engaged in this, by length of time he attains to that nicety of ſkill therein, which he never could have arrived at, were his attention diſtracted by a great variety of other ſubjects.

The wiſdom of ages approved by experience, the moſt certain teſt of knowledge, has taught us the neceſſity and utility of appointing different perſons for theſe ſo different employments, and accordingly, we find them proſecuted ſeparately in every wiſe and

poliſhed

poliſhed country, to the great advantage of each, and to the unſpeakable emolument of the community. Indeed the benefits which theſe preſervers of the human race, improving each his profeſſion apart, have ſhed abroad in the world, ſomewhat reſemble the great bleſſings of nature, the light and air; they are ſo common we all enjoy them, and, for the moſt part, without appearing ſenſible of their unſpeakable value.

I appeal to the common ſenſe of mankind. The common ſenſe of mankind, duly informed, gives its verdict againſt a promiſcuous profeſſion of different occupations. When a country has made ſome advances in other arts, and begins to flouriſh in knowledge, perhaps not without ſome luxury, it is high time that medical ſcience ſhould be practiſed with regularity. It would be unpardonable in the profeſſors to let it remain at a ſtand, as if they had already attained the ſummit of human wiſdom. This would curb every laudable attempt to improve polite literature amongſt the riſing generation. In general, languid is the proſecution of ſtudy, when there is but little proſpect of ſeeing our labour crowned with ſucceſs.

Let us now conſider in a brief manner the advantages we may hope for from the execution of our deſign. Theſe are greater, and more in number, than ſtrike our notice at once. We ſhall firſt con-

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ſider the benefits which the STUDENTS of MEDICINE will derive from it.

IN a place ſo remote as Philadelphia from every ſchool of Phyſic, we cannot expect a very early intelligence of all the medical diſcoveries and improvements which are made in Europe. In eſtabliſhing medical colleges, the profeſſors of each branch will find it incumbent on them to keep up a correſpondence with the learned abroad. They will thus get ſpeedy accounts of every thing new which may relate to their particular provinces. By improving this knowledge, they can diffuſe it amongſt their pupils, and, by their means, more readily propagate it through every part of the country.

THAT this will be of the greateſt utility is manifeſt, if we rely on the authority of the moſt celebrated academicians. They ſtrongly recommend "to let none of thoſe diſcoveries eſcape us, which are daily brought to light by the labours of maſters in the art. Without this care, ſay they, the moſt conſummate practitioner, within the ſpace of twenty years, will be ignorant of thoſe truths which are then familiar to novices: the labours of others will thus become a ſource of labours to himſelf, and, without new ſtudy, his knowledge will decay into ignorance. Thus the celebrated practitioners in the time of Harvey, content with the knowledge which they had acquired

from

from their predeceſſors, ſhut their eyes againſt the light which this great man preſented to them. They had made a long career in the exerciſe of their art, without knowing the circulation of the blood, which expoſed ſo many errors in the books of the ancients, and ſo many falſe ſteps in their proceedings; whilſt Novices, enlightned by this diſcovery, with reaſon deſpiſed theſe haughty practitioners who grew old in their errors." *

STUDENTS are apt to be diſguſted with any art, when, at their firſt entrance upon it, they find it beſet with difficulties which to them appear unſurmountable; but when theſe begin to clear up, their eager purſuit of knowledge increaſes daily with growing pleaſure. A regular courſe of inſtruction prompts them to an eager purſuit of learning: it ſheds forth conviction upon the mind, and improves the confidence of the diligent; a confidence founded on

* Il faudroit encore ne laiſſer èchapper aucune des decouvertes qui naiſſent tous les jours des travaux des maîtres de l'art: ſans cette ètude, le Praticien le plus conſommè ignorera dans l'eſpace de vingt annèes des veritès qui ſeront familieres à des novices: les travaux des autres ſont donc une ſource de travaux pour lui; et ſans une nouvelle ètude, ſon ſçavoir même ſeroit flètri par ſon ignorance.

Tels etoient des Praticiens cèlèbres contemporains d'Harvèe. Contens des connoiſſances qu'ils ávoient puisèes dans les Ecrits de leurs predeceſſeurs, ils fermerent les yeux à la lumiere que leur preſentoit ce grand homme; ils parcoururent une longue carriere dans l'exerciſe de leur art, ſans connoître la circulation du ſang, qui devoile tant d'erreurs dans les livres des anciens, et tant de faux pas dans leur marche. Des Novices, èclairès par cette decouverte, mepriſoient avec raiſon ces praticiens dèdaigneux qui vieilliſſoient dans leurs erreurs.

Vid mem. de l'Acad: royal: de Chirurg: de Paris.

on the juſt principles of demonſtration and reaſon. It is very certain that oral inſtructions and ocular illuſtrations render ſcience eaſier, are more convincing, and make a more durable impreſſion than the beſt wrote treatiſes.

A courſe of reading and obſervation is not ſufficient, without other inſtruction, to qualify young men for practice; ſince many of the books of medicine are full of obſcurity, or crouded with abſurdities, which puzzle the unexperienced reader, and often lead young minds aſtray.

As the moſt precious metals in a ſtate of ore are mixed with droſs, ſo the choice truths of Medicine are frequently blended with a heap of rubbiſh. How valuable and neceſſary is an experienced profeſſor who knows how to clear this away; to preſent thoſe truths ſimple and pure from mixture; to trace them out under the various appearances they put on at different times, and to diſcover to ſtudents the clue of reaſoning which they ought to purſue, in winding through a labyrinth of obſcurity, before they can arrive at a clear knowledge of the more difficult parts of their profeſſion! That is to teach them how to philoſophize juſtly in medicine.

The greateſt genius left to itſelf is like the earth, when deſtitute of the ſun, incapable of bringing its productions to a perfect maturity. A courſe of re-

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gular inſtruction is to the mind like the rays of light darting through the obſcurity of Chaos. It diſpells the clouds that envelope the underſtanding, and enables the diligent ſtudent to penetrate into the ſecret receſſes of nature. Thus prepared, he is in a ſituation to enrich himſelf with thoſe treaſures of knowledge which the obſervers of nature have heaped together for many ages. He has a torch put into his hand to light him to the true ſcience of curing diſeaſes.

As the practice of teaching is requiſite, in order to be able to explain the difficulties of any ſcience, and render the communication of its precepts familiar to others, it is neceſſary that perſons ſhould devote their time very much to it. This can only be done to good purpoſe, ſo that ſtudents may reap ample advantages therefrom, by means of inſtituting public profeſſorſhips.

The buſineſs of a Profeſſor is to place before ſtudents in a full light, at their firſt entrance upon any ſtudy, the true object of that ſtudy, and to aſcertain their proper purſuit. In performing this, he firſt explains to them the terms of art, and renders the language and ideas thereof familiar. He afterwards directs them to what is the moſt proper courſe of ſtudy, and to the beſt authors to be conſulted on the ſubjects of which he treats. He points out the miſtakes which any of them may have run into, and puts them upon

their guard againſt ſuch errors as are apt to miſlead ſtudents. He ſupplies the defects of thoſe authors, and mentions what new light the lateſt diſquiſitions and diſcoveries have thrown upon every ſubject. He thus points out the road which leads to ſcience, and prevents the young votary from running into a maze of doubts. He confirms his ſteps, ſmooths the rugged path he has to tread, aſſiſts him in climbing the ſteep aſcent, and, before diſmiſſion, informs him how he is to conduct himſelf, in order to reach at length to the ſummit of his profeſſion. Having a plan before him, a fixed end in view, and the means of attaining it within his reach, the ſtudent, impelled on with irreſiſtable ardor, preſſes forward, eager to reach the goal of knowledge and the height of all medical attainments; and ſince he is ſo well inſtructed in his career, has the apparent proſpect of wiſhed for ſucceſs.

Another manifeſt advantage of public lectures is, that they bring together a number of ſtudents of the ſame claſs of knowledge. If the profeſſor is a man who labours to improve the growing mind, he has it in his power to kindle an ambition in the breaſt of his pupils. An opportunity is put into his hands of examining the progreſs they make. They become acquainted, and ſometimes form ſocieties under the eye and direction of their teachers and maſters. They converſe, and write diſcourſes

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on ſuch literary and medical debates as tend greatly to their mutual improvement.

As to what regards ſtudents themſelves, theſe ſeveral particulars I am perſuaded are ſufficient to convince every judicious perſon of the neceſſity of inſtituting, in this ſeminary, profeſſorſhips in all the branches of the healing arts.

The great advantage which may be expected to accrue to the Seminary itſelf, from the eſtabliſhment of medical ſchools, is the advancement of the grand deſign of ſuch a ſeminary in general, and the improvement of ſome of the moſt uſeful branches of literature, that can embelliſh any ſeat of learning. If wiſdom and profitable ſcience are the glory, the ornament, the higheſt attainment of humane nature, and give the ſtrongeſt evidence of a people being enriched with generous and refined ſentiments, by which all poliſhed nations are ambitious of being diſtinguiſhed; then, moſt certainly, it becomes an object of the firſt conſideration with us to determine, whether the cultivation and patronage of this ſcience are worthy our moſt ardent purſuits, and whether we ſhall improve this opportunity which is now put into our hands for that purpoſe. It is needleſs to inform you of what conſequence it is to take the lead in a deſign ſo intereſting, ſo noble and important.

THE reputation of every ſort of uſeful learning muſt be of great benefit to a CITY, as it will draw, from all parts, perſons that have a reliſh for literature, who will always prefer a place of education, in which the greateſt number of advantages coincide.

THE reſort of ſtrangers to any city for the cultivation of ſcience muſt give it proportionably a pre-eminence over others. An education in any place begets that place an intereſt, and as it were naturalizes ſtrangers to it. In return for a diſpenſation of knowledge, it collects a tribute of riches as well as of affection from all quarters.

AMONGST the benefits to be derived to the PROVINCE from the eſtabliſhment of medical ſchools, I cannot paſs over a particular one, which ought to fire the ambition, and animate the induſtry of every ſtudent who has choſen to devote himſelf to the cultivation of the healing arts.

WE live on a wide extended continent of which but the ſmalleſt portion, even of the inhabited part, has yet been explored. The woods, the mountains, the rivers and bowels of the earth afford ample ſcope for the reſearches of the ingenious. In this reſpect an American ſtudent has ſome conſiderable advantages over thoſe of Europe, viz. The moſt ample field lies before us for the improvement of natural hiſtory. The countries of Europe have been repeatedly traverſed

by

by numerous perſons of the higheſt genius and learning, intent upon making the ſtricteſt ſearch into every thing which thoſe countries afford; whence there is leſs hopes or chance for the ſtudents who come after them to make new diſcoveries. This part of the world may be looked upon as offering the richeſt mines of natural knowledge yet unriffled, ſufficient to gratify the laudable thirſt of glory in young inquirers into nature. The diſcovery muſt greatly enrich medical ſcience, and perpetuate the glory of the authors to lateſt time.

How many plants are there, natives of this ſoil, poſſeſſed of peculiar virtues? how many foſſils to enrich the cabinets of the curious? how many natural ſubſtances, objects of new trade and commerce to ſupply materials for various arts, as well as to enlarge the bounds of Medicince? what means are ſo likely to bring them to our knowledge as medical reſearches and careful experiments, proſecuted by thoſe inſtructed how to make them, and how to profit themſelves of the diſcovery? A ſpirit of inquiry into theſe things would be put on foot as the natural tendency of ſuch an inſtitution, and prove the moſt likely means of bringing to light the knowledge of many uſeful things, of which we yet remain ignorant, the more readily, as natural hiſtory is one of the moſt eſſential ſtudies to prepare a perſon

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for profecuting medicine with ſucceſs, and one of the moſt diſtinguiſhed ornaments of a phyſician and man of letters.

From all theſe different views, I preſume none will deny the expediency, and neceſſity if I may ſo ſay, as well as the exceeding great benefits of the propoſed inſtitution to this ſeminary, city and province. Nor does the utility of it ſtop here. We may not only hope to profit ourſelves, but, in very many inſtances, contribute hereby to the advantage of the Colonies, the vicinity and connections of which with ours might encourage many ſtudents to reſort hither. Thus the reputation and influence of this inſtitution, becoming at length more univerſal, might extend themſelves as from a center, and include diſtant places within the circle of its uſefulneſs.

FOR a few moments, ſuffer me here to beſpeak the attention of

The STUDENTS of MEDICINE.

Having now laid before you an object worthy of your moſt earneſt regard; the nature of the ſtudies in which you are to engage; their extent, difficulty, importance and dignity being now pointed out, and a plan ſuggeſted to you, whereby your labours may meet

meet with a more certain ſucceſs; conſider well, Gentlemen, how much depends upon your own diligence----Think how neceſſary it is to employ all your attention in order to accompliſh ſo valuable an end.----To this end place before your eyes the illuſtrious examples of great men, who, by puſhing their reſearches into the boſom of nature, have extended the bounds of uſeful ſcience. Tread in their ſteps, become indefatigable in the cultivation of medical literature, and be earneſt to bring it to perfection. The rewards of the rich, the countenance of the great, and the juſtly merited eſteem of the good and the virtuous, which outlaſts the fleeting years of humane date, will not be wanting for your encouragement. You will be in a condition to practiſe the healing arts with ſkill and reputation, and to tranſmit your knowledge, and the benefits thereof, to a ſucceſſion of others. What is a moſt pleaſing reflection, thoſe who have been diſtreſſed by irkſome diſeaſes, and relieved by your ſkill, will own themſelves indebted to you for the life you have prolonged;----You will be ever remembered as the ornament and boaſt of your profeſſion, and be juſtly ſtiled guardians of the health of mankind.

THESE conſiderations ought to animate you in the noble purſuit, and determine you to perſevere therein with unſhaken firmneſs and conſtancy. Be not

not diſpirited at the difficulties which preſent, or the obſtacles you are to encounter. Let them ſerve rather as a ſpur to your induſtry. They will not ſtand in the way of men who are determined to ſurmount all oppoſition in their courſe. Regard them as left by others for you to maſter. Was there no difficulty remaining, you would have leſs ſcope for a genius of inveſtigation; leſs honour in being barely followers of others. Both ſcience and honour offer one fate to their votaries. They reward the courage of the brave and of the ſteady, and repell the faint hearted and irreſolute. You have an ample field before you to cultivate. Inſpired by a love of ſcience, your diligent inquiry into natural cauſes and effects muſt produce diſcoveries; and theſe diſcoveries prompt you with freſh alacrity to new reſearches; an employment as delightful and honourable as it is advantageous.

ORDER requires that I ſhould now addreſs myſelf in particular

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE COLLEGE.

To you HONOURED SIR, * and you GENTLEMEN who are truſtees of this ſeminary, the reſpected patrons of literature, who alone can give force and ſtability to undertakings of ſuch moment as this, I beg leave to return my warmeſt acknowledgements

* The governor of Pennſylvania, who is preſident of the truſtees.

acknowledgements for the diſpoſition you have ſhewn of encouraging every attempt to promote ſcience in this place; for your ready concurrence with my propoſal of inſtituting medical ſchools in this ſeminary; and for the honour you have conferred on me, in appointing me a profeſſor of the Theory and Practice of medicine. My gratitude cannot be manifeſted in a better manner, than in ſhewing the moſt ſcrupulous regard to the improvement of medical learning, and diligently proſecuting every meaſure which may be thought conducive to that end. I flatter myſelf nothing in my power ſhall be wanting to anſwer the great purpoſes of the inſtitution.

The learned Provoſt, vice Provoſt and faculty of the college have employed their unwearied care in cultivating every branch of academical knowledge; and thus, with a ſucceſs anſwerable to their wiſdom and perſeverance, have carried this ſeminary to a very high pitch of reputation. Their induſtry I ſhall ſet before me as an example worthy of imitation, and ſhall conſult with them, in framing ſuch rules as may be thought expedient for the better regulating of phyſical exerciſes, and fixing the medical ſchools on the moſt reſpectable footing. From their experienced judgement, and warm attachment to the intereſt of the college, I have room to hope for all the aſſiſtance they can yield me in carrying the deſign into execution.

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Being aſſured of this, it is yours to perfect the plan which I have briefly ſketched out. Under your patronage we may hope that Medicine will put on the form of a regular ſcience, and be cultivated with ardor and ſucceſs; and that your influence will be employed to promote the ſeveral branches of it; to the eſtabliſhment and perfection of which are annexed conſequences, of the higheſt concern to the American colonies in general, to this province, this city, and this ſeminary in particular. It belongs to you to collect the ſcattered powers that are neceſſary to be united, in an attempt ſo important; and to tranſplant hither ſome of the moſt noble and beneficial ſciences that mankind are bleſſed with, the ſeeds of which, ſo opportunely ſown, will certainly produce a luxuriant growth of the moſt profitable knowledge.

Perhaps this Medical inſtitution, the firſt of its kind in America, though ſmall in its beginning, may receive a conſtant increaſe of ſtrength, and annually exert new vigour. It may collect a number of young perſons, of more than ordinary abilities; and ſo improve their knowledge as to ſpread its reputation to diſtant parts. By ſending theſe abroad duly qualified, or by exciting an emulation amongſt men of parts and literature, it may give birth to other uſeful inſtitutions of a ſimilar nature, or occaſional riſe, by its example, to numerous.

merous ſocieties of different kinds, calculated to ſpread the light of knowledge through the whole American continent, wherever inhabited.

SURE I am that you regard the riſing youth as the growing hopes of the country. You ardently wiſh that they may become eminent, in every qualification which can render them an ornament, or a bleſſing to their fellow creatures. You are, no doubt, anxious to encourage a ſpirit of literature amongſt them, and are attentive to procure them every advantage that may enable them to fill the higher offices of life, and eſpecially the learned profeſſions, with ability and dignity. Nor do I imagine you will neglect any occaſion, ſuch as this which now offers, to anſwer theſe ſalutary purpoſes. Deſtitute of culture, the imagination of youth ſhoots wild and unprofitable; but, directed by art and improved by ſcience, a natural genius is like a rich ſoil, the fruitful ſource of many benefits to a country.

WHILST the ſtudies of youth are proſecuted under the encouragement and patronage of men diſtinguiſhed by their literature and worth, they have the higheſt motives that can animate the purſuits of a generous mind. They conſider themſelves as under the notice of the public, to which every ingenious perſon labours to approve himſelf.

A love of fame and a laudable ambition allure him with the moſt powerful charms. Theſe paſſions have, in all ages, fired the ſouls of heroes, of patriots, of lovers of ſcience, have made them renowned in war, eminent in government and peace, juſtly celebrated for the improvement of polite and uſeful knowledge. They have powerfully influenced the perfection of arts, the advancement of commerce and the proſperity of cities. They have heightened the character of particular people to ſuch a degree, as to make them regarded by other countries with admiration and eſteem. Such I hope will be the conſequence of your patronizing Medical ſcience in this place.

The difficulties of executing the propoſed plan are inferior, far inferior to the glory of being firſt in ſuch an undertaking. What grand enterprize was ever accompliſhed without any difficulties? If we have but reſolution to maſter thoſe which obſtruct our deſign, they will only ſerve to heighten the luſtre of its atchievement. Seize then the opportunity of executing a ſcheme ſo glorious in itſelf, and of ſuch importance to this place: as you have given a beginning to the taſk, I doubt not to ſee it fully perfected in due time.

As the intereſt of literature and the intereſt of this province are concerned in it, the undertaking will meet with aſſiſtance and ſupport from every lover of

ſcience

ſcience and every worthy citizen. They will unite their mutual aids to render the foundation of it ſolid and permanent. The good of the community, the welfare of our fellow creatures, and the common ties of humanity will ſuggeſt the moſt powerful arguments in favour of it, with every perſon of a patriotic generous diſpoſition. When, by an early and well placed aſſiſtance, every one of us may contribute to ſave the lives of thouſands; of thouſands yet unborn; and, in ſome ſenſe, give being to thouſands more who ſhall ſpring from them; who does not feel himſelf warmly engaged in a deſign of ſuch public utility?

The conſcious reflection of contributing to inſtruct the riſing generation, and to form them for public ſervice, of cultivating the healing arts amongſt us, and thus aſwaging the calamities of diſeaſe, and relieving many miſerable objects who labour under a load of poverty and ſickneſs, cannot fail of giving an exalted pleaſure to a benevolent mind. They experience it in the higheſt degree, who are moſt bleſſed with the refined ſentiments of a tender and feeling humanity.

The preſent Æra will be ever memorable in the annals of hiſtory, for the reputation of Britiſh valour, and the ſucceſs and glory of the Britiſh arms, as well as diſtinguiſhed by the reign of a King, the boaſt

and

and joy of his people. Under his auſpices, letters are cultivated, the arts flouriſh, and the ſciences are protected with a paternal care. His regard for literature has been particularly extended to this ſeminary. Let us unite every power within us to render ourſelves worthy of ſuch royal bounty, and multiply, all we can, the benefits which our gracious ſovereign has intended we ſhould reap from it, by the moſt diligent culture of every ſpecies of uſeful knowledge. This will be a proof of the veneration we have for our monarch, who delights in the happineſs and welfare of his ſubjects, the moſt diſtant of whom are near to him; and will teſtify how anxiouſly we deſire to become, under his government, benefactors of mankind. The improvement of a ſcience, uſeful as that of Medicine, adds luſtre to a throne, and will perpetuate, to the lateſt poſterity, the names of thoſe who ſhall patronize and improve it.

Oh! let it never be ſaid in this city, or in this province, ſo happy in its climate, and its ſoil, where commerce has long flouriſhed and plenty ſmiled, that ſcience, the amiable daughter of liberty and ſiſter of opulence, droops her languid head, or follows behind with a ſlow unequal pace. I pronounce with confidence this ſhall not be the caſe; but, under your protection, every uſeful kind of learning ſhall here fix a favourite ſeat, and ſhine

forth

forth in meridian ſplendor. To accompliſh which may every heart and every hand be firmly united.

Hoc opus, hoc ſtudium parvi properemus et ampli,
Si patriæ volumus, ſi nobis vivere cari.

Q. HORAT. FLAC. Epiſt. Lib. I. 3.

FINIS.

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM